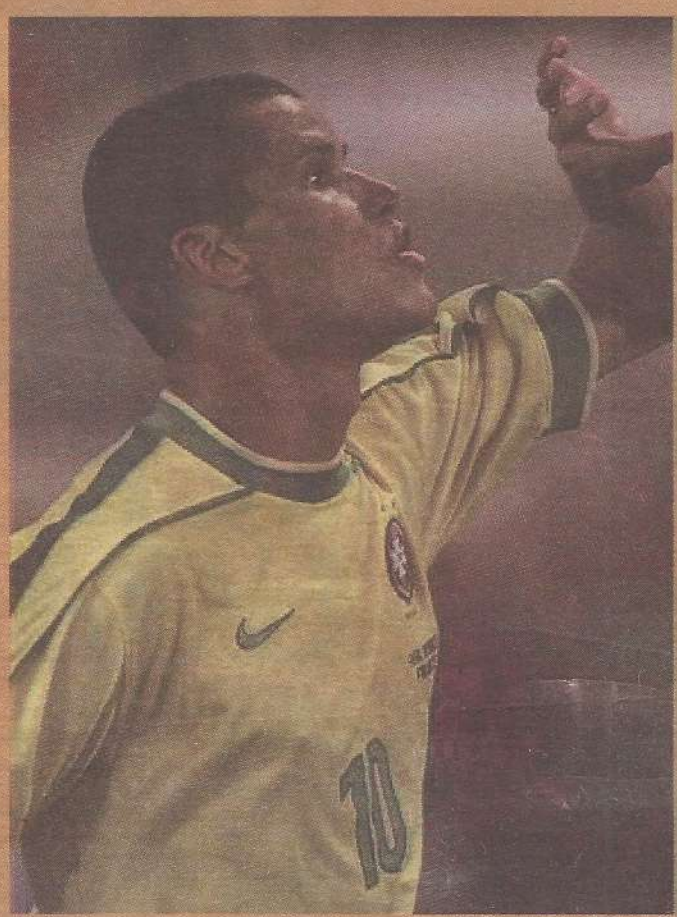
AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN SOCC

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

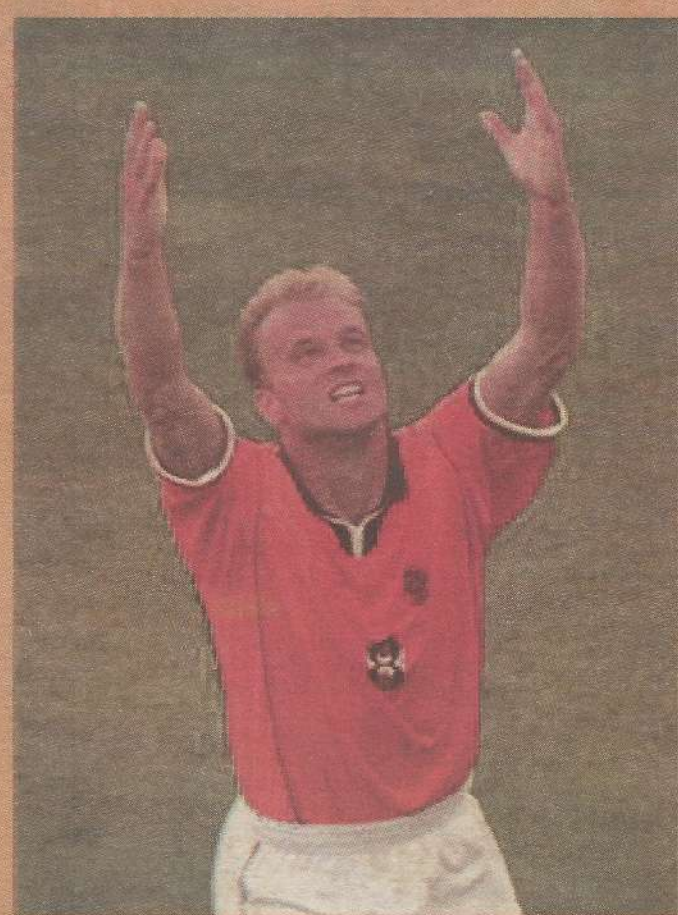
VOL. 19 No. 885 – TUESDAY JULY 7, 1998 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2.50

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN SOCC

$2.50



AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR...



SUKER STUNS INVINCIBLES! P.29

DENNIS THE MENACE SUPER-GOAL! P.28

INSIDE...

3 .....Les Murray in Paris
4 .....France 98 latest
5 .....Australian news
6 .....You have your say
7 .....Australian news
8 .....Australian results
9 .....Free Giveaways
10 .....NSW State Leagues
11 .....NSW State Leagues
12 .....Australian Features
13 .....Soccer Canberra
14 .....Soccer Victoria
15 .....Soccer Victoria
16 .....Images of France 98
17 .....Images of France 98
18 .....Soccer Women
19 .....France 98 stories
20 .....France 98 stories
21 .....France 98 stories
22 .....France 98 matches
23 .....France 98 matches
24 .....France 98 matches
25 .....France 98 matches
26 .....France 98 matches
27 .....France 98 matches
28 .....France 98 matches
29 .....France 98 matches
30 .....France 98 analysis
31 .....France 98 analysis
ABSW...
Bringing the best to you

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204.
Tel (02) 9562-0559. Fax (02) 9550-9332
Email: soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204

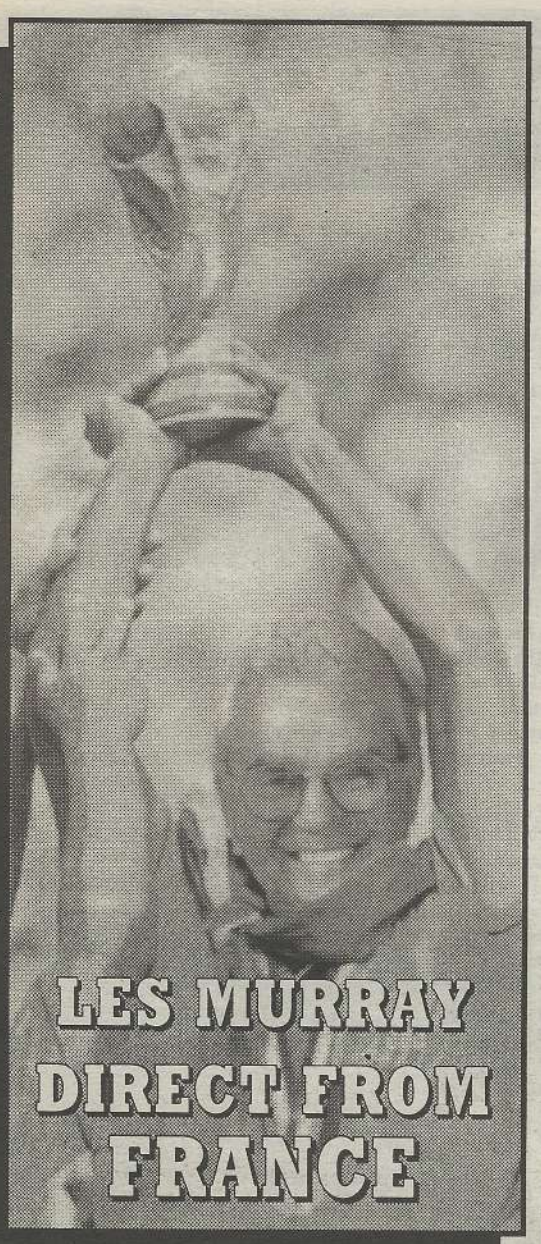
DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 9562- 0500
VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street, Collingwood. 3066 Tel: (03) 9486-9522 Fax: (03) 9486-9858
QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9329
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

EDITOR: .....Aidan Ormond
DESIGN MANAGER.....Andrew Akratos
LAYOUT/TYPESETTING: .....Mary Quartly
.....Joanne El-Lakkis, Alamita Vea
SCANDESK:.....Alex Siafakas
COLOUR SCANS:... .....Bill Hawthorne

CORRESPONDENTS
MELBOURNE: .....Dwyght Tuffnell
QUEENSLAND:.....Glenn Davis
WOLLONGONG: .....Phil Murphy
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: .....Richard Kreider
WOMEN'S CORRESPONDENT:Janene Mar
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:....Stuart Jones Andrew Akratos, Mark Fowler, Roy Hay, Joe Russo, Mark Stavroulakis, Daryl Katz.
STAFF REPORTER: .....John Economos

Recommended and maximum price. $2.50
* All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.
◆ **Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.**

AUSSIE GIRLS' WORLD CUP DREAM P.18



DITCH HODDLE SAYS LES

As this pulsating, stirring, multi-dimensional World Cup rolls towards the semi-finals and the final next Sunday, the aroma that still fills the air is over England's elimination. Those who continue to grieve over it are not just the English, even though, of course, the Argentinians would have a different view. And to be sure, whatever your diagnosis of the England exit, their opponents surely are not to blame. The fact that England had a man sent off and they didn't is hardly their fault.

Football, as we know, is a funny game and there can be dozens, even hundreds of compounding reasons for a result, especially when two teams are so even as England and Argentina were.

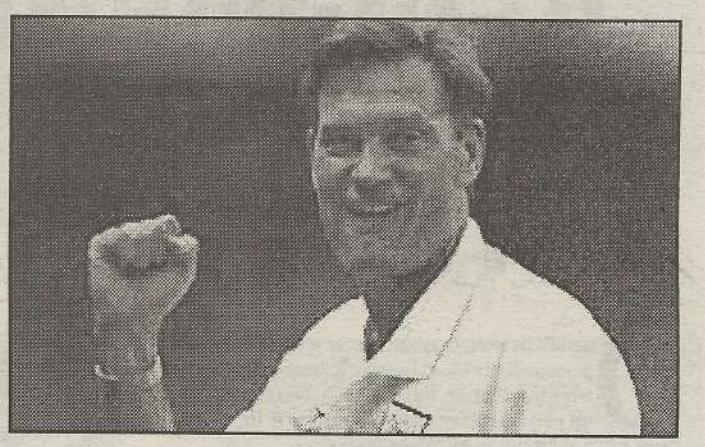
In this instance the most popular diagnoses are: Beckham, for being sent off; the referee, for sending him off; and both Ince and Batty for missing those penalties. Well, then why don't we throw in Seaman, for giving away a penalty and anything else that may have happened but didn't.

Distilling the whole affair in one's mind, the real reason can be tracked back to England coach Glenn Hoddle and his obstinately bad selections earlier in the tournament.

Precisely for overlooking match-winners like Owen and Beckham in earlier games and picking two extremely ordinary alternatives Sheringham and Batty. They were picked, Hoddle would say, for sound tactical reasons against Tunisia and Romania. Trouble is the tactical reasons weren't very sound.

It is my view, and it is shared by everyone that I have spoken to this week, that with Owen and Beckham England would not only have won even more handsomely against Tunisia but would probably have beaten Romania. We saw, after all, what a transformed team England was with those two men against Colombia. That would have meant England finishing top of its group and thereby having to face Croatia and not Argentina. With the greatest respect to Croatia, who have done extremely well in how far they have gone in this tournament, but they would surely have been a much softer opponent than Argentina.

After the group matches Hoddle, with a graceless and transparent piece of immodesty, claimed that he wanted Argentina in the first place and that Owen and Beckham were always being kept in reserve for the Colombia game. What absurdity!


Glenn Hoddle: On yer bike!

Is he suggesting that the Romania game was thrown in order to ensure that Croatia was avoided? For those utterances alone Hoddle should be hauled into the FA's offices and be carpeted for attempting to so blatantly hoodwink the press and the public. Basically, for lying.

But for the greater sin, of engineering England's elimination with bad selections, he should be fired and fired now. There are those, me among them, who often moan that coach sackings are far too often cases of shooting from the hip, of administrators finding scapegoats to take the pressures of failure off themselves. But in instances when clear technical errors are made and when those errors end in failure, the sacking of the coach is not only warranted but necessary.

This is such an instance.

Hoddle has to go, not just because he was to blame - which he was - but also because his type of coaching mentality threatens the competitive future of the England team. Hoddle and his coaching staff can talk till their tongues get sunburnt about tactics and strategy and the rest of it.

But leaving the immense and internationally admired talents of a Michael Owen on the bench cannot be explained. Such thinking implies that Hoddle is a cautious, negative man who lacks the courage to fashion a team that will win games rather than avoids defeat. A team that will inspire his nation and the rest of his team. Hoddle, to put no finer point on it, does not coach the way he played. As such he is not the man for England.

And one hopes the other coaches here have learnt from the Hoddle experience.

Michael Owen on being told Hoddle will continue??

SOCCER IS TOPS!

Editorial

Next time you read or hear a Thugby (or is that Drugby?) person trying to tell you how great their globally insignificant sports are, here are the facts — not subjective opinions — courtesy of Perth Glory's excellent Internet site.

Soccer is the largest sport in the history of mankind, being played in 193 countries around the world.

The 1998 World Cup will be watched by a live audience of 2.5 million spectators and a cumulative TV audience of 37 billion!

The Manchester United club was recently valued at $600 million. The club recorded 190,707 visitors through its museum in 1996, sells five million shirts a year worldwide and averages merchandise sales of almost $60 million a year.

Soccer is a growth sport in Australia. The worldwide popularity of soccer is reflected here in Australia. A recent national survey, conducted by Sweeney and Associates and involving telephone interviews with 1500 people chosen at random (including 200 from WA) showed: 41% of Australians (7.38 million people) are interested in soccer; 35% of Australians (6.3 million people!) watch soccer on TV; 11% of Australians (1.98 million people) attend soccer matches at some level.

The attendance for the Socceroos' World Cup qualifier against Iran was unofficially around 97,000.

And when you consider that the World Cup of Rugby (AFL of course does not have one) is a pitiful joke, really, you have to feel sorry for the non-World Game supporters. We don't denigrate their sports because we don't need to.

Soccer ... the Real Football is the only true Global Sport. After all, the whole world can't be wrong, can it?

MARADONA THE NEW MANAGER?

By ABSW

Are we about to see one of the most intriguing and hyped appointments in international management? Diego Maradona revealed he wants to become the new manager of Argentina's now eliminated World Cup side.

For all his troubles and foibles Maradona remains a God to the Argentinian public, who prefer to remember only that he was the greatest footballer in the world and nothing less.

"It is my dream to train my national team," he said.

"If Passarella is going to move to the job of technical director of football I am sure we can work together with great success."

Maradona put 18-year-old Owen alongside Holland's Dennis Bergkamp and Brazil's Rivaldo as the players who have made the most impact at the World Cup and singled out the teenager's strike against his countrymen as one of the goals of the tournament.

"Owen is a real talent. He is one of the three players that have impressed me the most. He, Dennis Bergkamp and Rivaldo have all had excellent World Cups," Maradona added.

The Argentine legend was in France commentating on the games and is reportedly going to England soon. See story on page 19 in 'View from France'.

Maradona: Next Argentine manager?

MEDIA PRESS PTY LTD
5-13 GARNERS AVENUE, NSW 2204 (02) 9562 0500 - Fax (02) 9550 9332
* NEWSPAPERS — MAGAZINES BOOKLETS — INSERTS — TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
* WEBB OFFSET PRINTERS
* GENERAL COMMERCIAL and COLOUR PRINTERS
* TYPESETTING — TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE
* SADDLE STITCHING
* PERFECT BINDING
* DISTRIBUTION — CIRCULATION AVAILABLE
(02) 9562 0500

FRANCE 98 NEWS

Compiled by ABSW

KLINSMANN MAY RETIRE FOR GOOD?

One of Germany's greatest ever strikers, and a real personality to boot, Juergen Klinsmann said on the weekend that he was seriously thinking of giving up playing soccer completely because he wanted to focus more of his life on his young family.

Speaking after Germany went out of the World Cup following a 3-0 quarter-final defeat by Croatia, the 33-year-old Klinsmann said: "I don't know if I am going to go on at all. I need to take a holiday and spend time with my family."

Klinsmann, who turns 34 next month, was expected to step down from international football after the World Cup.

But it is a surprise that the striker, who has travelled a great deal in his career playing in Italy, France and England as well as in Germany, is seriously thinking about quitting despite some top-class form at the finals.

Klinsmann, who played for Tottenham Hotspur last season but who had already decided to leave the English premier league club, said his main reason for thinking of retirement was his family.

After becoming a father for the first time 15 months ago, the forward said he wanted to devote more time to his private life.

"The main reason is my family. I have a 15-month-old son. He needs me and I need him. I need to be with my family," said Klinsmann who was clearly emotional when he talked to reporters at the German's World Cup training camp.

"A new stage of my life is beginning. I want to be there for my son and my wife."

The striker, who had been rumoured to be ready to finish his career in the United States, said he planned to take a holiday straight away and think about his future.

"The last nine to 12 months I have concentrated hard on the World Cup," he said.

"I need to get away from it all and think about things. I don't know how long I will need. Other players have not got the opportunity to do that. But I have and I will use it."

Klinsmann scored three goals at the tournament, taking his World Cup finals tally to 11, which makes him joint fourth top scorer of alltime.

Only Gerd Mueller of Germany (14), Just Fontaine of France (13) and Brazil's Pele (12) have scored more.

Juergen has visited Australia before (on a private holiday to North Queensland) and apparently loved it. In the not too distant future wouldn't it be great to have this globetrotting star player return to Australia, perhaps for coaching clinics or even guest games should he retire completely from the game. He loves Australia, his young family would too, and we would love him to visit.

Juergen Klinsmann ... the show is over?

BIGGER IS BETTER!

Youri Djorkaeff, on the brink World Cup glory with the host nation, believes Michael Owen should follow his nomadic sporting lifestyle if the Liverpool prodigy is to fulfil his potential as one of the greats of global soccer.

The 30-year-old Inter Milan striker possesses an impeccable football pedigree. His father Jean won 47 international caps and represented France in the 1966 World Cup finals in England.

Djorkaeff junior believes he is currently engaged on a personal crusade as part of the France team that aims to win the World Cup on home soil. And he asserts that the football intelligence that makes him such a critical part of the France team has only been accumulated by representing five clubs during the past decade.

"There are some wonderful players on show at this World Cup," he explains. "The likes of Michael Owen, Marc Overmars and Ronaldo. The world loves great players.

"But it's so important for these boys to keep moving on to bigger stages in their lives. They need bigger challenges all the time.

"I've found that the bigger the team, the bigger the club, the better I have become as a player. You have to face up to the demands - physical and mental - of performing on the biggest stage."

Djorkaeff comes from Polish-Armenian descent but nobody can doubt his commitment to the French cause. The man who relishes personal challenges knows this week's semi-final, and the potential final next weekend, will provide the biggest tests of his life.

"Nothing I have ever faced has been as demanding as this World Cup," he admits. "It is the biggest, the toughest test you could wish for. This is the perfect stage for a player of my age to come to his peak."

Ironically, Djorkaeff senior's last appearance in the World Cup came againat England at Wembley. Bobby Moore and company, on course to become world champions, won the game 2-0. Jean, who played at right-back, says: "There's not much comparison between our football styles. Youri is an instanctive player. A wonderfully skilful player who makes things happen."

Young Youri was weaned on tales of France's failure in '66. "My dad told me that his team failed to do themselves justice. He made three appearances in the qualifying group matches and the defeat against England ensured they were eliminated.

"There the similarity between our international careers ends but I know he would love to see me part of a triumphant France team this time around. We know we carry the hopes of the nation."

Djorkaeff ... Man of Destiny?

DUTCH DISASTER ON EVE OF BIG ONE

Dutch spirits came crashing down to earth a day after their quarter-final win over Argentina, when defender Winston Bogarde was carried from training with a broken leg. The Dutch camp confirmed that Bogarde had fractured his right fibula.

"It is very serious. He is now in hospital in Monaco and we have to see if he will be operated on in Amsterdam or if a surgeon will be flown here," a dejected Dutch coach Gus Hiddink said.

And in other news, England will have to double Glenn Hoddle's salary to around $1m a year if they want him to continue as coach for the next four years.

Hoddle is due in Paris today to watch the World Cup semi-finals and FA chairman Keith Wiseman is expected to attempt to persuade him to discuss a new contract before England's first qualifying match for the European Championship in Sweden on Sept. 5.

So far Hoddle has not been prepared to commit his career to England when a club job would pay him more than the $500,000 a year he now earns.

Hoddle, whose contract runs until 2000, said: "The 2002 World Cup is too far ahead for me to consider at the moment. I want to keep my options open. I don't see any reason to change the situation. If the agreement was coming to an end it would be different. A lot of water must pass under a lot of bridges before then."

Paying Hoddle what he wants should not be a problem for the FA, which has made at least $100million from the World Cup. The FA is convinced he is the coach to lead England into the next century.

With no other outstanding candidate waiting in the wings, Lancaster Gate wants to agree terms with Hoddle as quickly as possible to underpin arrangements for the next four years.

The FA believes Hoddle has streamlined England's style of play and earned new respect from the rest of the world.

What do you think?

Winners for this week's competitions:

ALLEZ! OLA! OLE!
Rafael Vidovic
O'Malley, ACT 2606

MONOPOLY CD ROM GAME
Peter Katsoulis
Prahran, Vic 3181

EA SPORTS WORLD CUP 98 Competition
Roberto Mastroianni
Scarborough, Qld

SMYRNIS & Co SOLICITORS

Ph: 9552 6288 Fax: 9660 7349
- 91 GLEBE POINT RD, GLEBE
- 1st floor, 196 Stacey St, BANKSTOWN
- 1st floor, 2-6 Regent St, KOGARAH
- 1st floor, 83 Bronte Rd, BONDI JUNCTION

Tel: 9388 0222

Australian News

AB GOES IN TO BAT FOR VIERI

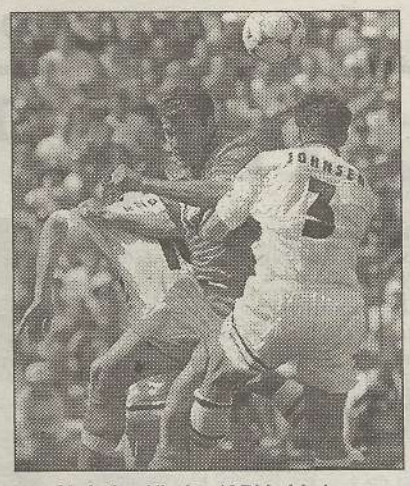
Following the incredible hype surrounding former Marconi junior Christian Vieri, currently starring for Italy at the World Cup, Aussie cricket legend Allan Border has sent an autographed bat to Christian in France.

The 24 year old Italian striker is currently leading the scoring charts at the World Cup and his rapidly ascending status in world football has captured the attention of all Australians, despite Italy's exit to France.

It is well documented that Christian began his football career at Marconi and with the euphoria surrounding his exploits in France, the global media have reacted with bemusement at his nomination of Allan Border as his sporting idol.

Allan Border's gesture was communicated to the Marconi Football Office last week, with the cricketing great stating: "I was first informed of young Christian's praise of me a couple of weeks ago. It was a tremendous thrill for me to hear this news particularly as Christian is now such a big name in soccer. I would have expected his response to a sporting hero query to be more in line with a name such as Pele. I am genuinely rapt of his adulation and pass on my best wishes for success in France and beyond."

Border continued: "I've always been a bit of a soccer fan and have been following England's progress in the World Cup over the past few weeks. Upon hearing of Christian's rap on me, I guess you could say that I now have two teams to follow at the World Cup and particularly Christian, who is doing ever so well at the moment for Italy."



Christian Vieri ... 'AB' is his hero.

Allan Border's status in cricket needs no explaining to the legion of cricket fans around the world as his feats over the years are legitimately categorised as legendary. Accordingly, his gesture of sending a cricket bat to the kid who dreamed of playing cricket for Australia and ultimately became one of world soccer's most prolific scorers, again shows the beauty of sport.

"I sent the bat to Christian as a token gesture of my appreciation of his kind sentiments. I hear that he was a handy little cricketer, and with him also being a left-hander, he would undoubtedly have been a great batsman as well. I wish him all the very best of success."

KASEY'S BACK!

By Mark Stavroulakis (ABSW Junior Soccer Writer)

Australian Olyroos team boss Raul Blanco has selected a 20-man squad to tour South America. Blanco's hectic preparations for the 2000 Olympic Games continues — already in 1998 they have played, and won, six matches against Brazil and New Zealand.

The Olyroos are scheduled to play eight matches, six against crack Argentine outfits including River Plate, Boca and Independiente. Chile's Olympic team are set to play the Olyroos on July 25.

A total of 11 players have kept their places after the recent three-match series against New Zealand. Youngster Nick Carle, who has just returned from a South American tour with the Young Socceroos is also in the squad.

Ex-Young Socceroo star Kasey Wehrman makes a welcome return to international duty after missing most of Brisbane Strikers' 1997/98 Ericsson Cup campaign through injury. He is one of Australia's most exciting players and his return can only be good news for our national Olympic side.

The 20-man squad is...

Name	Club	Position	Age
Tansel Baser	South Melbourne	Defender	20
Con Blatsis	South Melbourne	Defender	20
Marco Bresciano	Carlton	Midfielder	18
Jacob Burns	Sydney United	Def/Mid	20
Christian Care	Marconi Fairfield	Midfield	19
Nick Carle	UTS Olympic	Forward	16
Michael Curcija	South Melbourne	Forward	21
Joe Didulica	Melbourne Knights	Goalkeeper	20
Brett Emerton	Sydney Olympic	Def/Mid	19
Dragi Nastevski	Melbourne Knights	Defender	21
Levant Osman	Gippsland Falcons	Defender	21
Sebastian Sinozic	Wollongong Wolves	Defender	19
Noel Spencer	Wollongong Wolves	Midfield	20
Mile Sterjovski	Sydney United	Forward	19
Zeliko Susa	Melbourne Knights	Midfield	19
Archie Thompson	Gippsland Falcons	Mid/For	19
Andy Vargas	Port Melbourne	Midfield	19
Kasey Wehrman	Brisbane Strikers	Midfield	20
Nathan Wildy	Adelaide Sharks	Goalkeeper	20
Ivan Zelic	Canberra Cosmos	Def/Mid	20

Stand-by Players...

Leo Carle (Sydney Olympic)
Travis Dodd (Adelaide City)
Glen Kolpak (Rochedale Rovers)
Tynan Scope (Coventry City)

Kasey Wehrman ... at last the Queenslander is back in an Australian shirt.

Bill Hurley's
Australian SPORTSBOOK

NEW AND ESTABLISHED CLIENTS ARE ADVISED

THAT OUR OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FOR EXTENDED HOURS (9AM-MIDNIGHT DAILY) ON THE:-

WORLD CUP SOCCER

You Can Open Your Account Today and Bet Tonight. For Further Details Ring
02 9897 0088

Phone: 02 9897 0088
Fax: 02 9897 0888

BETTING TO PROGRESS

DATE	WIN	TEAM	TEAM	WIN
7/7 4.30am	1.45	Brazil	Holland	2.60
8/7 4.30am	1.35	France	Croatia	3.00

BETTING ON RESULT AFTER 90 MINUTES

DATE	WIN	TEAM	DRAW	TEAM	WIN
7/7 4.30am	2.00	Brazil	3.00	Holland	3.50
8/7 4.30am	1.70	France	3.00	Croatia	5.00

CARLTON STARS HEAD ABROAD

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Last season's Ericsoon Cup runners-up Carlton are off to China today for a 12 day pre-season tour.

Carlton, which began training just three weeks after the Ericsson Cup Grand Final, will play three matches in China against the Bayi Army team, Xianjing Province and Henan Jianye.

Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said that joining the squad will Grgo Saric.

Saric, a 19 year old midfielder, will be looked at by Krncevic in China with a view to adding him to the squad.

He was at Melbourne Knights last season, after spells at the VIS and AIS, but was unable to break through for a spot in the first team.

"I don't know whether we'll be signing him yet, but I'll have a look at what he can do in China," Krncevic said.

Marco Bresciano and Andy Vargas will both miss the trip, they'll be in South America with the Olyroos (see squad above).

Also missing will be Simon Colosimo, John Markovski, Robert Trajkovski, Con Anthopoulos (all trialling in Europe) and Vince 'The Prince'Grella who has been forced out with injury.

Colosimo will be attending training in England with Blackburn Rovers, choosing this option over the Olyroo tour.

Markovski was trialling with German club SV Waldorf Mannheim, but is back in Melbourne after sustaining a slight injury over in Europe but it looks likely that he will be asked to return to Germany.

Anthopoulos is also hoping to secure a European contract, with Greek club Olympiakos, whilst Trajkovski is trying his luck with Czech club Dukla Prague.

Carlton, at worst, could lose five players to European clubs before the start of the new season.

"We could lose some players," said Krncevic, "but we'd use the finances of their sales to buy replacements.

"We've got a couple of players in mind, but we'll wait and see what happens before making a decision."

Carlton's Simon Colosimo was a notable absentee from the Olyroo squad announced to tour South America.

Colosimo's team mates Marco Bresciano and Andy Vargas will be with the team but he'll be in England taking up an offer of training with Premier League club Blackburn Rovers.

He had got permission from coach Raul Blanco to take this opportunity.

Bresciano has also been invited by Blackburn, but he won't be training with the club until he comes back from South America.

Both players had also been the subject of interest of Italian club Torino.

Have Your Say ...

Australian & British Sex Weekly??

I am very disgusted with the attitude towards the title of the World Cup. The World Cup has and always will be one of the most exciting sporting events of all time. Or will it?

I have probably heard and read more about sex than goals. First it started with Ronaldo from Brazil not being able to be with or see his girlfriend during the World Cup. Then it was the whole of the Brazilian team who were banned to see or have any sexual contact with any female.

I thought that was a bit pathetic. Until I read ABSW, Vol 19, June 23 1998, page 18, News Of The Week, centred in the bottom half of the middle a young blonde female wearing the German uniform. The first article which shocked me the most was 'Annina's Full Monty For Berti's Boys?' For those of you who have not read it, I'll state it in short, a German model has said that she would strip for the German team if they win.

Seriously who cares? Good on her. WE all know what she is, not stating a name as it might be of an offence to most readers. Then we have 'No Sex Please We're Japanese' and 'I'm Lonely' where there is an explanation of the ban of sex in soccer.

Is this Australian British Soccer Weekly or Australian British Sex Weekly?

I am a female aged 16 and I am very upset about the freedom of speech about sex in everyday life, but when opening a soccer magazine to read about the soccer and finding sex written on every line it really makes me wonder is it soccer people want or has sex corrupted their minds?

What about all the children that read these magazines, while growing up you are influenced by the environment.

Let's say a 14 year old boy read these articles he would easily believe that sex must be fun so out he goes and does his job.

I want to see soccer written on every line of every page not sex!!!

Rena Logothetis
Thornbury, Victoria.

ABSW's email address at:
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au
We encourage you to use this service.
Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of this paper.
Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.
Send your letter to:
The Editor, Australian & British Soccer Weekly, PO Box 155, Marrickville NSW 2204.
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Ticketing Problems

With the greatest show on earth coming to an end soon in France, FIFA needs to rectify a few problems in future to make it even better and more satisfying to the people of the World, so as to remain the number one sporting event on the planet for centuries to come.

Firstly, ticketing arrangements or ticket sales need to be controlled by FIFA and not the host country in future, to eliminate or at least reduce profiteering from shonky dealers and scalpers on the black market, and also to eliminate the bias towards the host country's fans who get the majority of tickets for sale (subsequently also making a huge profit on the black market).

Secondly, future World Cup Finals should be held on any other continent of the world except Europe for the next 20 to 30 years at least, to eliminate or at least reduce hooliganism. English or other European so-called fans wouldn't try any nonsense in Muslim or Third World countries if they faced the lash under their laws.

Their numbers would be greatly reduced to cause trouble on other continents, as USA 94 proved.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, QLD.

AN ENGLISH LAMENT

Written four hours after the Argentina victory over England at France 98...

A sombre man sits all alone, quietly clutching his inner self. Coming to terms with the 'all so near' is beginning to be his lesson in life. Apparent that they will succeed, the inability to perform where it counts and do what is regarded and expected from a nation as a whole.

Just why should it be that with this man on this morning, life as we know it should come to a stand still. Just how much can he take. He looks into his empty bottle, stares wide eyed into the barrel and cries unashamedly to his knees.

Not a sight to behold, the almighty tradition, but a realisation that out there is humanity that still exists.

The 'boys' did the job, unfortunately it proved not enough. As always, we go home empty handed and questioning the unquestionable. We go home pondering the 'what ifs'.

We can only look to the next two years where our next challenge awaits. Will there be changes? I think so. Will the mood change? I guarantee it. Will we believe "it's coming home" once more? You better believe it. Will we travel the journey again? We have to.

And to that we lay to rest another moment in the history of a nation that just can't seem to make it count when it is needed.

Living is a passion for the game owned by the world. We owe it everything. Doesn't England owe us?

So this sombre man smiles wryly into his bottle. "Make that another mate" to the barman in his best Australian accent.

Simon Preston,
Sydney, NSW

Thinking of a gift? Birthday? Christmas? I love you?

How about an ABSW subscription?

Only
$130 (annual)
$180 (overseas)

Join now as thousands have worldwide!

Send cheque to:
PO Box 155,
Marrickville, NSW 2204.

Australian News

WE CAN MAKE THE FINALS, SAYS STANGE

Courtesy Perth Glory Net Site

From his hotel in Europe, new Perth Glory coach Bernd Stange sent this message to Glory fans (whom he has already been told are the best fans in the land):

"Many of my successes with German teams could not have been achieved without the support of the fans. The members are the most important people in any club and I cannot wait to come to Australia and meet you all.

"I can guarantee you will not be disappointed with the style that Perth Glory adopts. I have watched videos of Perth Glory and other Australian teams, and I believe we have the players to reach the finals for the first time. I intend to use the flair and other positive aspects of the Australian play, and blend them with the precision and tactical acumen of the German game.

"But a coach's job does not begin and end with the first team. I want to work with everyone in the game in Western Australia to develop the local raw talent into international players. If I can help coaches at all levels improve their skills, then everyone involved in soccer in this State will benefit.

"While the World Cup is a very exciting time for me, I can't wait to get to Perth and start the job, with your help, of taking Perth Glory to the finals."

So there, the man has spoken.

R&R FOR GLORY BEFORE HARD YAKKA

Many of the players from Perth Glory are taking a break, to rest injuries, or visit friends and relatives. Here's a quick update on what the players are up to:

Troy Halpin is spending some time with his family in Newcastle and is looking forward to the start of the new season.

Ernie Tapai decided he needed a complete break from soccer, so he elected not to play for the Socceroos in Croatia. Instead, he is enjoying a long holiday "doing the sights" in the USA.

Scott Miller spent part of his holidays in Bali and is back in Perth looking tanned and relaxed.

Vas Kalogeracos decided to stay close to home and has taken a relaxing break in the beautiful South West.

Gavin Wilkinson is on a long deserved holiday from his arduous role as the club Development Officer.

Danny Hay will be heading to the UK in July for a two-week trial with first division club Crewe.

Bobby Despotovski has gone home to Yugoslavia to visit his family.

Tony Franken has renewed his contract with Glory and can't wait for the new season to start.

Vinko Buljubasic has recently had a trial in Belgium, and the result is still not known. The club is very anxious to keep Vinko on its list.

Tony Carbone has been asked by new coach Bernd Stange to stay in Perth and work with him for the coming season. Bernd will endeavour to use his long list of overseas contacts to set up an opportunity for Tony in the following season.

Gareth Naven has gone to Europe to watch the World Cup and will return to become a full-time player with Perth Glory.

Vinko Buljubasic ... Glory are very keen on hanging on to their classy sweeper.

Michael Garcia is working hard to be fully fit for the start of the season in October.

And in other news ... every season the club interviews 150 people before the seventh home game, to get a "snapshot" of who is coming to Glory games. You may be interested to know that: Glory games are not "a boys day out". A quarter of all people attending Glory games are female.

Glory supporters are loyal. Over 65% of the people interviewed said they had attended 11 or more of the club's 20 home games.

They are also fierce soccer supporters. One third said they don't support any other WA national league team (like the Wildcats, the Eagles or the Dockers) - only Perth Glory.

There is a broad spread across all age groups, 38% of people attend as part of a family group and 40% of all supporters were born in Australia.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 'THE SYDNEY TEAM'

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER FC

Invites talented players to trial for their Colts team for the forthcoming Ericsson Cup season.

Dates:

Monday 13 and 20 July

Venue:

Ewen Park, Tennent Pde

Hurlstone Park

Time: 6.00pm start

Age: Turning 16 on or before 31.12.98

All trialists should seek permission from their existing registered Club to attend the trials.

For further details phone

02 9558 5355

OLYROOS PARTY SCANDAL

By John Economos

Raul Blanco's Olympic team departed yesterday (Monday) for a 25 day tour of South America where Australia will play eight matches, including two against the Olympic teams of Argentina and Chile.

Excluded from the squad, however were giant and skilled striker Clayton Zane plus tenacious defender Stephen Laybutt, left out for disciplinary reasons.

Unfortunately for these two players Blanco chastised them for partying that occurred in Coffs Harbour after Australia played its last of three friendly games against New Zealand's Olympic team.

I have discovered that fortunately for three other players, (a striker, a wingback and a midfielder), who were also involved in the 'Coffs Harbour partying', they escaped detection and have thus made the travelling squad to South America.

Meanwhile, Sydney Olympic officials tomorrow (Wednesday) will meet their counterparts from the Cronulla Rugby League club to inspect the Sharks' ground and then discuss the possibility of a joint-tenancy on Sharks Park (Endeavour Field).

Olympic almost certainly will again be using Belmore Sports Ground for the coming season starting in October, but Olympic urgently needs additional training grounds. The club is also considering the St George Stadium.

And in overseas news, Jason Petkovic and Danny Milosevic are currently in Europe, (Paris in fact), on business as well as pleasure.

Both Australian international goalkeepers have gone to France to see the World Cup.

Furthermore, they have been granted trials with Belgium's latest first division League champions, Club Bruges.

ADVERTISE WITH US AND THE WORLD SEES YOU!

BRAZIL CAPTIAN DUNGA LOVES HIS ABSW? JUST ONE OF THOUSANDS WORLDWIDE!

ADVERTISE WITH THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST.

ABSW.

COMPETITIVE RATES

AUSTRALIA'S WEEKLY SOCCER BIBLE READ BY ALL!

OUR DEDICATED ADVERTISING TEAM ARE STANDING BY FOR YOUR CALL

18 YEARS OF NATIONAL AND WORLD SOCCER COVERAGE AND STILL GOING STRONG

CALL LES WHITE IN SYDNEY ON ...

9562 0507 (Direct Line)

Fax: 9560 3165

E-mail

soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

OR call

JOHN on (02) 97446984

MARIO on 0411191171

Australia Update

Soccer Queensland

By Glenn Davis

Taringa Rovers slid out of the XXXX League's top four for the first time this season despite a spirited fightback to snatch a 2-2 draw with premiership leaders Brisbane City at Jack Speare Park on Sunday.

Taringa, who only a few weeks ago were riding high in second place on the table, have seen rivals Rochedale Rovers, Brisbane Lions and Ipswich Knights surge past them to threaten their place for a semi-final berth.

In a lacklustre first half, neither Brisbane City nor Taringa dominated with both sides going in at the break level at 1-1.

Taringa had the best early chance to break the deadlock in the 21st minute when a powerfully struck header from Craig Slaughter was brilliantly tipped over the crossbar by City keeper Danny Duke.

However, it was Brisbane City who broke the deadlock three minutes from the interval when former national league veteran Danny Wright easily rounded Taringa's Scott Robinson 30 metres out, before racing to the byline and drilling a low hard cross into the path for an unmarked Chris Slater to tap in.

City looked set to go into the break with a deserved lead until Taringa midfielder Des Hughes drove home the first of a double during the time-on period.

Taringa midfielder Danny Britton, who was rushed into the side in his first game back in almost two years following a knee injury, laid on the pass for Hughes to score the equaliser.

Just as the late goal stunned Brisbane City, the visitors extracted their revenge on Taringa inside two minutes of the second half when Slater bagged his double in a replay of the visitor's first goal.

Wright, who was menacing the Taringa defence down the right, this time raced towards the by-line and drilling a low cross into Slater's path for his second.

The Taringa defence paid nearly for allowing Wright to slip around them so easily twice and for ball-watching on Wright, which enabled Slater to ghost in behind to bob up at the right time to score.

To their credit, however, Taringa showed they had the fighting qualities to comeback midway through the second half when Hughes struck a perfect chip over Duke's head from 18 metres.

Slater was denied a hat-trick by some brilliant keeping from Taringa's Scott Higgins in the closing stages.

Slater again had room to move on the edge of the box this time turning and blasting a shot which Higgins dived brilliantly to tip over the crossbar.

The Wright-Slater combination repeated their successful earlier moves with two minutes remaining but Higgins bravely threw himself at Slater's feet as he shot to again deny Brisbane City the match winner.

Ogden was happy with the result after the game although disappointed his side had slipped to fifth.

"It was a fair result but it was a match we were desperate to win," Ogden said.

"They are a very hard team to beat and I thought the lads did well overall."

Ogden is now faced with yet another team reshuffle for next week's crucial match against Ipswich Knights after defender Joe Hale received a yellow card.

"I think Joe will be suspended now and we've got another hard game against Ipswich next week," he said.

"I was very pleased with the way Danny Britton played and to see him last the entire game in his first match back from nearly two years off but unfortunately he'll be away next week."

In other matches Ipswich continued their great run surging into second place on the ladder following a hard fought 2-1 win over Wynnum, Brisbane Lions downed Mt Gravatt 3-1, Rochedale easily accounted for Bundaberg 4-0 while Gold City trounced Beenleigh 3-0.

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane City	19	13	5	1	47	15	44
IPSW Knights	19	12	1	6	32	28	37
Rochedale Rov	19	11	1	7	33	22	34
Brisbane Lions	19	10	3	6	34	28	33
Taringa Rovers	19	9	5	5	28	20	32
Mt Gravatt	19	5	6	8	32	32	21
Gold Coast	19	5	6	8	24	27	21
Wynnum	18	5	4	9	23	30	19
B'Berg Waves	18	5	1	12	22	39	16
Beenleigh	19	3	0	16	21	55	9

ROUND 19

Taringa Rovers	2	Brisbane City	2
Gold Coast	3	Beenleigh	0
Brisbane Lions	3	Mt Gravatt	1
Wynnum	1	IPSW Knights	2
Rochedale Rov	4	B'Berg Waves	0

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toowoomba Utd	17	15	1	1	51	14	46
Rocklea Utd	16	10	1	5	42	24	31
Capalaba	17	8	5	4	35	22	29
Inala City	17	7	2	8	33	40	23
Acacia Ridge	17	7	1	9	32	36	22
Olympic Utd	17	6	2	9	29	36	20
Souths Utd	17	4	7	6	25	27	19
Redlands Utd	17	5	2	10	31	52	17
Slacks Creek	17	2	3	12	20	47	9

ROUND 19

Inala City	2	Capalaba	2
Redlands Utd	3	Slacks Creek	3
Souths Utd	3	Toowoomba Utd	0
Olympic Utd	0	Acacia Ridge	2
Bye	0	Rocklea Utd	0

NBN League

By Greg Danvers

Former NSW State League outfit Adamstown Rosebuds' rebuilding program was given a boost on Sunday when they clawed their way back in a dour and scrappy match against third placed Wallsend Red Devils for a 1-1 draw at Adamstown Oval.

Wallsend lead after 12 minutes when Scott McGuire slotted a well drilled shot from the edge of the penalty area low into the net.

But Adamstown were not to be out done and continually played physical and committed football to pressure the Red Devils.

With eight minutes left on the clock before half-time the enthusiastic Heath Timmins cleaned up a woeful clearance from the Wallsend defence and his well placed shot finding the corner of the net with Wallsend 'keeper, Jason Kos at full stretch failing to tip the ball around the post.

Adamstown started the second half full of fire and were denied several times in the second session by the woodwork.

On Saturday, the "Easts Maitland Magpies accounted for the Toronto-Awaba Stags 4-0 at Cook Square to leap-frog Toronto into fifth spot on the table.

Next Week

SAT 11/07/98
EASTS MAITLAND v
WALLSEND RED DEVILS

SUN 12/07/98
BROADMEADOW MAGIC v
BELMONT SWANSEA SWANS,
HIGHFIELDS
AZZURRI WOLVES v
HAMILTON OLYMPIC WARRIORS,
TORONTO AWABA STAGS v
WEATHERTEX GUNNERS,
EDGEWORTH EAGLES v
ADAMSTOWN ROSEBUDS,
CESSNOCK HORNETS v
WESTON WORKERS BEARS

2HD League

Lambton Jaffas hold fourth spot on the ladder after a 2-1 win over Phoenix on Saturday.

After a scoreless first half the goals came in a flury in the second stanza. Brian Southall slotted home a 55th minute penalty for the Jaffas.

Phoenix replied seven minutes later when Harry McLean header home the equaliser only to see Lambton claim the points four minutes later when Darren Tucker scored from close range.

Beresfield took the competition lead from West Wallsend with a 2-1 victory on Sunday.

Round 15

First Grade

Easts Maitland	4	Toronto Awaba	0
Highfields	5	Belmont Swansea	1
Hamilton	2	Weathertex	1
Weston	1	Edgeworth	1
Adamstown	1	Wallsend	1
Broadmeadow	2	Cessnock	1

Reserve Grade

Easts Maitland	3	Toronto	1
Belmont Swansea	3	Highfields	2
Weathertex	1	Hamilton	0
Edgeworth	1	Weston	0
Adamstown	2	Wallsend	0
Broadmeadow	2	Cessnock	1

Under 18's

Easts Maitland	7	Toronto	0
Belmont Swansea	3	Highfields	3
Hamilton	3	Weathertex	2
Edgeworth	3	Weston	2
Wallsend	1	Adamstown	0
Broadmeadow	2	Cessnock	0

Bill Turner Cup

ROUND 3

Pennant Hills 3 Masada College 2, Marist Bros Pagewood 3 Waverley College 0, Kadina 3 Casino 0, Mullumbimby 2 Tweed River 0, Port Macquarie 2 Wauchope 1, Merewether 4 Newcastle Grammar 1, Warners Bay 6 Glendale 2, St Francis Xavier 2 Mackillop 1, Daramalan 4 Belconnen 1.

ROUND 4

Prairiewood 6 Robert Townson 2, Crestwood 0-3 Holy Cross Ryde 0-2, Ashfield Boys 2 Greystanes 0, Chris Bros Lewisham 3 Condell Park 0, Endeavour 2 Caringbah 1, Farrar 2 Gunnedah 0, Duval 3 Inverell 1, Toormina 2 John Paul Coffs Harbour 1, ASC Maitland 4 Hunter Valley Grammar 0, The Entrance 2 Woy Woy 1, Delroy 8 Narromine 1, Holy Spirit 6 Figtree 0, Westfields 2 Bossley Park 0, Pennent Hills 1-9 Narrabeen 1-8, Pat Bros Blacktown 2 Blaxland 0, St Agnes 2 Colo 1, Kingsgrove North 2 Marist Bros Pagewood 1, Kadina 2 Mullumbimby 1, Port Macquarie 4 Chatham 1, Whitebridge 3 Warners Bay 0.

Victorian Churches Association

PARRY SHIELD — QUARTER FINALS

Lilydale Two	0	Canterbury	1
Lilydale One	4	Nth Blackburn One	2
Box Hill	2	Berwick Blues	0
Nth Blackburn Two	0	Eastern United One	18

VICTORIAN SOCCER FEDERATION v VICTORIAN CHURCHES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Endeavour United	1	Berwick Blues	0

Illawarra Soccer

PREMIER LEAGUE

Wollongong WE	1	Coniston Lions	1	Helensburgh	2	Northenr Utd	4
Wollongong Olympic	1	Dapto	3	Kemblawarra	0	Lysaghts	2
Fernhill	0	Port Kembla	1	Bulli	0	Cringilla	1

Devil and Eagles

By Rob and Frank from Adelaide Radio Station 5RTI

Radio Station 5RTI 92.7 FM Match of the Day will be at Adey Reserve, the local eastern derby between the Campbelltown Red Devils and the Adelaide Blue Eagles.

Last time these teams met was in Round 4, with the Devils running out winners by 1–0 from a late goal by former national league player in Carlo Talladira.

This will be a classic encounter, with Campbelltown having a very consistent season and must surely be hot favourites to take out the flag. A fate which has eluded the club since the late David Jenkins took them top in1986.

Blue Eagles have struggled lately and are hoping to cement their place in the top five playoffs, coach Zoran Karadzic has not pushed the panic button yet but admits Saturday's game is a must win for the Blues.

Highlight could hinch between the goalkeepers, Gino Delucia for the Blues and Andy Allen for the Devils who have both been in superb form.

At Hanson Reserve cellar dwellers Adelaide Raiders will be up against the Port Lion Pirates.

Camden Sportsfield West Torrens Birkalla who has Adelaide City's Bradley Armour on loan for the rest of the season will be playing the Olympian Flames.

At Ramsey Park, Elizabeth City Rams will be up against the Cumberland Foxes who have lost loan Adelaide Sharks goalkeeper Nathan Wildy for a few weeks due to Nathan being called up for the Olyroos to tour Argentina.

Woodville West Reserve will see White City doing battle against the Croydon Kings.

South Australia

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Modbury	16	10	4	2	39	19	34
West Adelaide	15	10	2	3	42	25	32
Adelaide Cobras	16	9	3	4	35	26	30
Enfield City	16	9	3	4	28	20	30
Para Hills Knights	16	9	1	6	33	28	28
Adelaide City	15	8	3	4	34	18	27
Noarlunga United	16	5	3	8	24	31	18
Salisbury United	16	5	1	10	24	36	16
Adelaide Hills	16	4	3	9	28	40	15
Western Strikers	16	3	4	9	20	30	13
Port Pirie City	16	3	4	9	31	48	13
Seaford	16	4	1	11	23	40	13

ROUND 16

Seaford	3	Adelaide Hills	1
Adelaide City	3	Western Strikers	1
Salisbury United	5	Noarlunga United	2
West Adelaide	2	Modbury	4
Para Hills Knights	2	Enfield City	1
Adelaide Cobras	3	Port Pirie City	3

STATE U/19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Noarlunga United	12	9	3	0	33	11	30
Adelaide Hills	13	8	3	2	32	13	27
Enfield City	13	8	1	4	27	21	25
Salisbury United	13	7	3	3	24	21	24
Para Hills Knights	14	6	2	6	32	25	20
Modbory	13	5	4	4	31	21	19
Western Strikers	12	5	4	3	27	21	19
Seaford	13	3	2	8	19	35	11
Port Pirie City	13	3	0	10	18	33	9
Adelaide Cobras	14	0	0	14	0	42	0

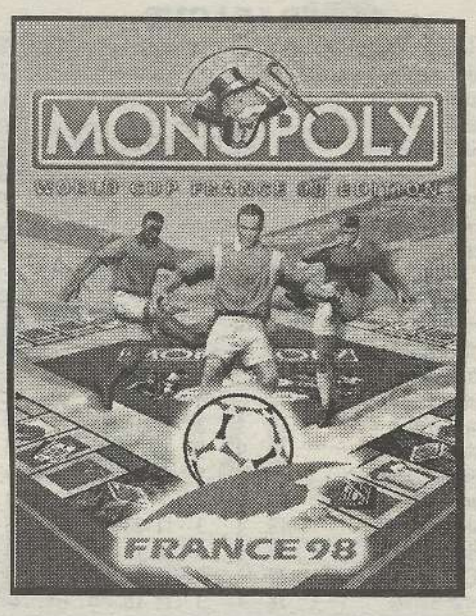
ROUND 16

Seaford	1	Adelaide Hills	6
Bye	0	Western Strikers	0
Salisbury United	0	Noarlunga United	3
Bye	0	Modbury	0
Para Hills Knights	1	Enfield City	2
Adelaide Cobras	0	Port Pirie City	3

FREE FREE FREE FREE

ALLEZ! OLA! OLE!

MUSIC OF THE WORLD CUP 1998!



Ricky Martin performs the 'Official Song' for the 98 World Cup soundtrack. The Month of June kicked off with the release of the official album of the World Cup 1998 — Allez! Ola! Ole!

The 20 Track Allez! Ola! Ole! is the only album officially endorsed by the world soccer governing body FIFA and features songs recorded from acts representing many of the qualifying World Cup countries.

Highlights include acts like Youssou N'Dour, Jean Michel Jarre, Apollo Four Forty, Gipsy Kings, Chumbawamba and Jam Spoon.

Included in the line up of artists, is the Latin singing sensation Ricky Martin, who performs the official song of the tournament — "La Copa De La Vida" (The Cup of Life).

Allez! Ola! Ole! is due for release in just two days.

This is a great album, and perfect to get you in the mood for the biggest event in the world.

We would like to thank our friends at Columbia Records for the CDs and videos to be given away.

See below for how you can get your hands on this album and some great prizes from EA Sports and the World Cup CD ROM Monopoloy ...

COMPETITION DETAILS

We have three competitions ... send in one envelope per competition and mark each one cleary. These are very popular competitions so get your envelopes in early!

1: **EA Sports World Cup 98 Competition.** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the answer to this question: Name one team in France 98. One winner will receive EA Sports World Cup 98 game.

2: **Allez! Ole! Ole! Competition:** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the naswer to this question: Which country does Ronaldo play for? One winner will receive a Ricky Martin recording and accompanying video.

3: **Monoploy CD Rom Game Competition:** Send in on the back of an envelope your name address and phone number with the answer to this question: Which country hosted the World Cup in 1994? Two winners will receive a copy of each book.

We will draw the winners next Monday
Go to page 4 for details of last week's winners.

ORDER YOUR COPY OF ABSW: RONALDO'S REACTION WHEN TOLD IT WAS SOLD-OUT!!

MUSIC FRONT
SHOP 33, LEVEL 4, ASHFIELD MALL,
LIVERPOOL ROAD, ASHFIELD NSW 2131
TELEPHONE: (02) 9799 7795

BUY THE RICKY MARTIN CD "VUELVE" AND GET A FREE POSTER

The biggest range of LATIN MUSIC in Australia
plus all the current Australian Chart
We also do MAIL ORDERS
Open 7 Days

NSW STATE LEAGUES

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

First Grade: Leichhardt Tigers 1 (T Bazdaric 89m Pen) bt Central Coast 0, Canterbury Berries 2 (J Nikas 80, 96m) drew Parramatta Eagles 2 (S Karavatakis 36m S Petrovski 51m), Bankstown City Lions 2 (M Lozevski 41m S Van Bentum 81m) drew St George Saints 2 (M Radosavljevic 38, 65m), Blacktown City 1 (J Angelucci 89m) bt Macarthur Rams 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 drew Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0,Eastern Suburbs 3 (P Moss 40m P Pullicino 55m S Mutton 72m) bt Ryde City Gunners 1 (P Watkins 27m).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Blacktown City	18	11	3	4	35	20	15	36
Macarthur Rams	18	11	3	4	33	25	9	36
Bonnyrigg WE	18	10	4	4	36	21	15	34
Parramatta Eagles	17	10	3	4	40	22	18	33
Eastern Suburbs	18	9	3	6	40	25	15	30
Canterbury Berries	18	9	3	6	30	29	1	30
Leichhardt Tigers	18	8	5	5	29	24	5	29
Bankstown City	18	6	5	7	26	27	-1	23
Central Coast	18	4	3	11	23	34	-11	15
Sutherland Shire	18	3	5	10	13	30	-17	14
Ryde City Gunners	17	3	4	10	16	31	-15	13
St George Saints	18	1	3	14	16	50	-34	6

U/21: Central Coast 1 drew Leichhardt Tigers 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Canterbury Berries 0, Bankstown City Lions 5 bt St George Saints 2, Blacktown City 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 6 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Ryde City 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bonnyrigg WE	18	13	2	3	62	20	42	41
Parramatta Eagles	17	13	2	2	40	16	24	41
Eastern Suburbs	18	10	4	4	41	23	18	34
Blacktown City	18	10	4	4	38	24	14	34
Macarthur Rams	17	8	2	6	35	23	12	29
Leichhardt Tigers	18	7	4	7	32	33	-1	26
Canterbury Berries	18	7	2	9	31	33	-2	23
St George Saints	18	7	2	9	29	36	-7	23
Bankstown City	18	5	2	11	25	36	-11	17
Sutherland Shire	17	4	2	11	20	44	-24	14
Ryde City Gunners	17	3	3	11	17	43	-26	12
Central Coast	18	2	3	13	22	61	-39	9

U/18: Central Coast 0 drew Leichhardt Tigers 0, Canterbury Saints 1, Macarthur Rams 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 8 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Ryde City 1, St George Saints 3 drew Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Parramatta Eagles	18	13	4	1	46	10	36	43
Bankstown City	18	10	5	3	42	17	25	35
Blacktown City	18	10	4	4	30	18	12	34
Ryde City Gunners	18	8	5	5	27	24	3	29
Macarthur Rams	17	8	4	5	28	20	8	28
Leichhardt Tigers	18	7	6	5	32	29	3	27
Eastern Suburbs	18	7	6	5	31	31	0	27
Bonnyrigg WE	18	7	3	8	36	35	1	24
St George Saints	18	4	5	9	30	33	-3	17
Central Coast	18	3	4	11	23	35	-11	13
Canterbury Berries	18	2	4	12	14	40	-26	10
Sutherland Shire	17	1	4	12	15	63	-48	7

DIVISION ONE ROUND 22

	1ST	U/21	U/18
Mt Pritchardt v AC United	2-2	1-2	0-0
Stanmore Hawks v Auburn Utd	2-1	2-3	2-1
Hills United v Belmore Hercules	1-1	2-1	3-0
Rockdale City Suns v Bathurst '75	1-1	6-2	1-2
Illawarra Lions v Fairfield Bulls	0-0	0-4	2-0
Hurstville City v Penrith Panthers	1-0	0-4	1-2
Manly Warringah v Moorebank Sports	1-0	1-1	2-3
*Hills United v Auburn United	1-4	1-1	2-3
**Moorebank Sports v AC United	1-4	4-1	4-1

First Grade: Mt Pritchard 2 (G Baldock 4m J Bruni 25m) drew AC United 2 (M Van Cuylenberg 49m A Vicaretti 85m), Stanmore Hawks 2 (N Bolianitis 10m N Kartambis 42m) bt Auburn United 1 (B Aksoy 85m), Hills United 1 (own goal 70m) drew Belmore Hercules 1 (J Christou 45m(, Rockdale City Suns 1 (S Najdoski 89m) drew Bathrust '75 1 (A Lemmoine 2m), Illawarra Lions 0 drew Fairfield Bulls 0, Hurstville City 1 (T Pontidas 20m) bt Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah 1 (D Rosenthal 65m) bt Moorebank Sports 0, Auburn United 4 (U Ogmen 18m N Codmani 65, 84m own goal 67m) bt Hills Hunited 1 (P Cleary 49m).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Stanmore Hawks	21	15	2	4	49	21	28	47
Fairfield Bulls	20	15	2	3	53	16	26	47
Hurstville City	21	15	1	5	53	21	22	46
Auburn United	22	10	5	6	39	35	4	35
Manly Warringah	21	8	6	7	32	27	6	30
Penrith Panthers	20	8	4	8	25	24	1	28
Bathurst '75	20	7	7	6	22	26	-4	28
Illawarra Lions	21	7	6	9	26	26	0	26
Rockdale City Suns	22	8	2	12	51	53	-2	26
Moorebank Sports	20	7	4	9	23	32	-9	25
AC United	21	5	8	8	30	35	-5	23
Hills United	22	4	5	13	23	49	-26	17
Belmore Hercules	19	3	6	10	18	37	-19	15
Mt Pritchard	20	3	3	14	27	49	-22	12

U/21: AC United 2 bt Mt Pritchard 1, Auburn United 3 bt Santmore Hawks 2, Hills United 2 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Rockdale City 6 bt Bathurst '75 2, Fairfield Bulls 4 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Penrith Panthers 4 bt Hurstville City 0, Manly Warringah 1 drew Moorebank Sports 1, Hills United 4 bt Auburn United 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Hills United	22	14	4	4	51	21	30	46
Faifield Bulls	20	13	5	3	69	28	41	41
Manly Warringah	21	12	5	4	45	23	22	41
AC United	20	11	5	4	41	26	15	38
Rockdale City Suns	22	11	4	6	63	52	21	37
Penrith Panthers	20	8	7	5	35	26	9	31
Bathurst '75	21	8	6	7	37	29	8	30
Moorebank Sports	20	7	9	4	36	29	7	30
Auburn United	22	9	3	10	53	56	-3	30
Stanmore Hawks	22	7	3	12	33	38	-5	24
Hurstville City	20	6	1	13	27	60	-33	19
Belmore Hercules	19	4	3	12	25	49	-24	15
Illawarra Lions	21	0	0	21	16	101	-85	0

U/18: Mt Pritchard 0 drew AC United 0, Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Auburn United 1, Hills United 3 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Bathurst '75 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 1, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Hurstville City 1, Moorebank Sports 3 bt Manly Warringah 2, Hills United 4 bt Auburn United 1, AC United 3 bt Moorebank Sports 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Bathurst '75	21	15	4	2	49	21	28	49
Manly Warringah	21	14	3	4	54	19	35	45
Stanmore Hawks	22	14	2	6	41	25	16	44
Illawarra Lions	21	13	2	6	66	33	33	41
Moorebank Sports	21	12	3	6	46	25	21	39
Hills United	22	11	6	6	44	33	11	38
AC United	20	10	2	8	40	31	9	32
Fairfield Bulls	20	10	2	8	29	30	-1	32
Mt Pritchard	20	9	3	8	36	24	12	30
Penrith Panthers	20	8	2	10	30	35	-5	26
Rockdale City Suns	21	5	4	12	40	45	-5	19
Belmore Hercules	19	3	1	15	26	65	-39	10
Hurstville City	20	1	4	15	20	68	-48	7
Auburn United	22	0	3	19	18	85	-67	3

DIVIDION TWO ROUND 18

	1ST	U/21	U/18
Arncliffe Scots v Hajduk Wanderers	1-4	0-3	0-7
Liverpool City v Hurstville ZSC	p/p	0-1	2-0
University of NSW v Alexander Warriors	p/p	p/p	3-1
Greystanes v Gladesville United	5-1	1-0	0-0
Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Sydney District	0-1	0-0	0-2
Parramatta City v Dulwich Hill	0-1	2-1	2-1
*Gladesville United v Liverpool City	1-5	3-4	0-1
**Hurstville ZSC v Sydney District			0-3

First Grade: Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Arncliffe Scots 1, Liverpool City vs Hurstviflle ZSC p/p, University of NSW vs Alexander Warriors p/p, Liverpool City 5 bt Gladesville United 1, Greystanes 5 bt Gladesville United 1, Sydney District 1 bt Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Dulwich Hill 1 bt Parramatta City 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Dulwich Hill	18	15	3	0	56	16	40	48
Hajduk Wanderers	17	13	4	0	49	10	39	43
Hurstville ZSC	17	10	5	2	39	22	17	35
Sydney District	18	9	0	9	26	33	-7	27
Greystanes	18	7	3	8	30	32	-2	24
Arncliffe Scots	18	7	2	9	34	35	-1	23
Alexander Warriors	17	7	1	9	35	34	1	22
Mt Druitt Town	18	5	5	8	31	33	-2	20
Liverpool City	17	4	3	10	19	33	-14	15
Parramatta City	17	4	3	10	22	42	-20	15
Gladesville United	17	3	4	10	25	46	-21	13
Uni of NSW	16	3	1	12	13	43	-30	10

U/21: Hajduk Wanderers 3 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hurstville ZSC 1 bt Liverpool City 0, University of NSW vs Alexander Warriors p/p, Greystanes 1 bt Gladesviflle United 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0 drew Sydney District 0, Parramatta City 2 bt Dulwich Hill 1, Liverpool City 4 bt Gladesviflle United 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Greystanes	18	151	2	35	18	17	46	
Hajduk Wanderers	17	13	0	4	76	17	59	39
Dulwich Hill	18	10	4	4	53	22	31	34
Mt Druitt Town	18	10	4	4	45	25	20	34
Hurstville ZSC	18	8	1	9	37	37	0	25
Uni of NSW	16	7	3	6	21	20	1	24
Gladesville United	17	5	3	9	26	31	-5	18
Parramatta City	17	5	3	9	25	37	-12	18
Liverpool City	18	4	5	9	32	44	-12	17
Sydney District	17	4	4	9	16	53	-36	16
Alexander Warriors	16	4	1	11	20	45	-25	13
Arncliffe Scots	18	3	3	12	15	53	-38	12

U/18: Hajduk Wanderers 7 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Liverpool City 2 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, University of NSW 3 bt Alexander Warriors 1, Greystanes 0 drew Gladesville United 0, Sydney District 2 bt Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0, Parramatta City 2 bt Dulwich Hill 1, Liverpool City 1 bt Gladesville United 0, Sydney District 3 bt

Nikas saves Berries

By John Economos

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic`s dynamic striker Jimmy Nikas scored two late goals to get his team out of jail and grab a 2-2 draw against the current NSW Super League champions Parramatta Eagles last Sunday at Henson Park. But the duel was marred by no less than 16 cards being issued, three of which were coloured red in a match that was anything but malicious.

NSL referee Matthew Breeze worked overtime as he dished out cards like a casino dealer that included the sending off of three players in the last nine minutes.

Breeze issued no less than seven yellows to Canterbury plus another six to the Eagles.

The first player marched off was Canterbury's first half substitute Tsigolis, who, being the last man, had fouled the advancing Eagles' striker Steve Karavatakis in the 87th minute.

Canterbury's sweeper Jose Mendes also saw the red card seven minutes later for a second yellow card offence, whilst Parramatta's sweeper Andrew Dowling received his second yellow, then a red, for continual arguing in the 96th.

In fact it was Parramatta's central marker Paul O'Grady who committed the foul on Nikas inside the box that ultimately led to Dowling's dismissal. Nikas easily scored from the spot to equalise and split the League points for his side.

Parramatta's Eagles' coach Dougie Utjesenovic was furious after the match with the lack of discipline shown by his players late in the game.

"We had the match won, yet some of my players wanted to yap yap and argue the point. We had played well till then, then lost all discipline in the last 10 minutes or so."

A hostile Utjesenovic then summed up: "This draw I now believe will ultimately cost us the chance to retain our League championship title.

"Many of my players could be facing fines imposed by me during the week as I'm really angry."

Nikas was nothing short of heroic for Canterbury, netting both goals.

The industrious striker scored his first with just 10 minutes of normal time left on the clock when Eagles' goalkeeper Jason Holmes spilled a hot 35 metre drive from Canterbury's veteran defender Spiro Hantzis. The ever-alert Nikas zipped in to tap into the target.

Canterbury had earlier got themselves into trouble to fall behind by two goals despite creating many chances. But lack of composure in front of goals yielded them nothing till the 80th minute.

The Eagles drew first blood nine minutes from halftime when their reliable ace-striker Steve Karavatakis sliced his shot over the top of goalkeeper Steve Tolios.

The League champions should have doubled their lead with seconds left before the break, but midfielder Maricio Islas rocked the right upright with his strong drive.

Eight minutes after halftime the Eagles did double their lead to 0-2 when clever midfielder Ray Younis laid off a lovely ball for striker Saso Petrovski to hit the target from the right with a hard low drive.

Best for the home team were twin strikers Nikas and Simon Fedele with left midfielder Terry Palapanis getting through a ton of work, whilst for the Eagles midfielders Islas and Sao Bosovski were tireless in their duties.

The Eagles' sorely missed the service and stability of their experienced centre-back Mark Reveley, who was ruled out serving a suspension.

Canterbury's proud coach Johnny Xipolitas was elated by his team's very late comeback, stating to ABSW: "It was a very strong game with both sides committed to attacking Soccer. But we unfortunately created two very stupid mistakes that led to their two goals whilst we were missing chances left and right, but finally we displayed the resilience needed to comeback at the end."

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC: Tolios: Shepherd, Mendes, Raeburn (Tsigolis 17th), Hantzis: Talcevski, Percy (Markopoulos 55th), Palapanis: Fedele, Jerkovic (Kategiannis 54th), Nikas.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Holmes: S.Utjesenovic, O'Grady, Dowling, Kimber, Jee: Islas, Younis, Bosovski: Karavatakis, Petrovski (Kinnimont 88th).

Scorers: Canterbury-Nikas 80th and 96th (penalty). Parramatta-Karavatakis 36th and Petrovski 53rd.

Referee: M.Breeze.

See pages 22-29 for all the World Cup Match Reports and the most up-to-date pictures.

NSW STATE LEAGUES

Hurstville ZSC 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Mt Druitt Town	18	16	1	1	61	7	54	49
Hajduk Wanderers	17	13	3	1	93	9	84	42
Liverpool City	18	12	2	4	35	14	21	38
Sydney District	17	12	1	4	48	23	25	37
Gladesville United	17	11	2	4	57	17	40	35
Greystanes	18	8	1	9	37	23	14	25
Dulwich Hill	18	7	2	9	38	26	12	23
Parramatta City	16	6	1	9	36	37	-1	19
Hurstville ZSC	18	5	2	11	21	34	-13	17
Uni of NSW	17	3	1	13	22	44	-22	10
Arncliffe Scots	18	3	0	15	17	102	-85	9
Alexander Warriors	16	0	0	16	3	132	-129	0

DIVISION THREE
ROUND 16

First Grade: Maroubra United 4 drew Prospect United 4, Sydney University 2 bt Hakoah 1, White City 2 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Trasandinos 0 drew Flamencos 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Colo Colo 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Sydney Uni	16	10	2	4	49	24	25	32
Glebe Wanderers	14	9	4	1	32	16	16	31
Camden Tigers	16	9	2	5	38	33	5	29
Trasandinos	15	7	4	3	28	23	5	26
Colo Colo	15	7	1	7	22	26	-4	22
Maroubra United	15	6	2	7	45	36	9	20
White City	16	5	5	6	26	38	-12	20
Flamencos	16	5	2	9	28	36	-8	17
Hakoah	15	5	1	9	24	33	-9	16
Prospect United	14	4	3	7	22	24	-2	15
Granville Greenisland	14	3	5	6	29	39	-10	14
Hawkesbury City	14	4	0	10	20	35	-15	12

Second Grade: Prospect United 2 bt Maroubra United 0, Sydney University 4 bt Hakoah 1, White City 3 bt Hawkesbury City 0, Flamencoes 7 bt Trasandinos 3, Colo Colo 3 drew Camden Tigers 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Flamencos	16	10	2	4	32	21	11	32
Sydney Uni	16	7	5	4	34	22	12	26
Prospect United	14	8	2	4	24	13	11	26
White City	16	8	2	6	37	27	10	26
Glebe Wanderers	14	7	4	3	24	11	13	25
Trasandinos	15	7	3	5	27	25	2	24
Colo Colo	15	7	3	5	28	27	1	24
Camden Tigers	16	5	4	7	28	30	-2	19
Granville Greenisland	14	4	4	6	19	20	-1	16
Maroubra United	15	4	1	10	20	41	-21	13
Hakoah	15	3	3	9	15	35	-20	12
Hawkesbury City	14	2	3	9	11	26	-16	9

DIVISION FOUR
ROUND 17

First Grade: Sydney Crescent Star 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Balmain Tigers 7 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, Nepean District 1 bt Fairfield Kings o, Lithgow Workmen's 3 bt Holy Cross Ryde 0, Marrickville 1 bt Springwood 0, St Josephs 3 bt Fraser Park 2, United Eagles 1 drew Prairiewood United 1, Springwood 2 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, Holy Cross 2 drew Fraser Park 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Fraser Park	16	12	3	1	45	12	33	39
Prairewood United	16	9	7	0	43	21	22	34
Sydney Crescent Star	16	10	2	4	35	25	10	32
Holy Cross Ryde	16	8	4	4	33	20	13	28
Nepean District	17	8	3	6	25	19	6	27
Marrickville	17	7	5	5	34	22	12	26
Fairfield City Kings	16	6	5	5	31	19	12	23
St Josephs	16	6	4	54	28	32	-4	23
CSI Schofields	15	6	2	7	25	30	-5	20
Balmain Tigers	16	5	3	8	34	30	4	18
Springwood	16	5	2	9	32	34	-2	17
United Eagles	15	2	7	6	22	27	-5	13
Lithgow Workmen's	17	3	1	13	22	57	-35	10
Earlwood Hermes	15	0	1	14	11	72	-61	1

Second Grade: Sydney Crescent Star 6 bt CSI Schofields 5, Balmain Tigers 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 0 (win by forfeit), Nepean District 7 bt Fairfield Kings 0, Lithgow Workmen's 5 bt Holy Cross Ryde 3, Marrickville 2 bt Springwood 1, Fraser Park 3 bt St Josephs 2 United Eagles 3 bt Prairiewood United 1, Springwood 2 drew Lithgow Workmen's 2 Holy Cross 2 drew Fraser Park 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Nepean District	17	12	2	3	53	13	40	38
Fraser Park	16	10	5	1	39	18	21	35
Balmain Tigers	16	8	5	3	29	14	15	29
Marrickville	17	98	2	6	40	27	13	29
Springwood	16	8	4	4	49	25	24	28
Prairiewood United	17	7	4	6	40	31	9	25
Holy Cross Ryde	16	6	5	5	30	24	6	23
CSI Schofields	16	6	4	6	34	32	2	22
Lithgow Workmen's	17	6	2	9	34	50	-16	20
Fairfield City Kings	16	5	3	7	29	38	-9	19
St Josephs	16	5	3	8	36	40	-4	18
United Eagles	15	4	2	9	29	61	-32	14
Earlwood Hermes	15	3	0	12	19	45	-26	9
Sydney Crescent Star 16	3	0	13	30	73	-43	9	

DIVISION FIVE
ROUND 16

First Grade: Auburn Star 1 bt Bossy 0, White Valley 0 drew Liverpool Olympic 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 drew AVA United 2, Racing 3 bt Liverpool Warriors 0, Sporting SCC 4 bt Homenetmen 1, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 bt Homenetmen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Auburn Star	13	7	4	2	29	14	15	25
Eastern Creek Pioneers	11	6	4	1	25	14	10	22
White Valley	13	6	4	3	21	15	6	22
AVA United	13	5	4	4	32	25	7	19
Sporting SCC	15	5	4	6	26	30	-4	19
Racing	13	3	7	3	22	17	5	16
Homenetmen	14	4	4	6	26	36	-9	16
Bossy	13	3	6	4	19	22	-3	15
Kosciusko	12	6	2	4	29	25	4	13
Liverpool Olympic	13	2	7	4	20	19	1	13
Liverpool Warriors	14	1	2	11	12	44	-32	5

Second Grade: Auburn Star 5 bt Bossy 1, White Valley 1 drew Liverpool Olympic 1, Eastern Creek Pioneers 1 bt AVA United 0, Racing 6 bt Liverpool Warriors 0, Sporting SCC 3 bt Homenetmen 2, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 bt Homenetmen 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Auburn Star	13	9	1	3	44	21	23	28
Sporting SCC	14	9	1	4	36	28	9	28
White Valley	13	8	3	2	36	18	18	27
AVA United	13	9	0	4	30	18	12	27
Eastern Creek Pioneers	11	8	1	2	29	13	16	25
Liverpool Olympic	13	6	3	4	26	18	8	21
Racing	13	5	0	8	30	29	1	15
Kosciusko	12	3	4	5	26	33	-7	13
Homenetmen	14	3	2	9	22	36	-14	11
Liverpool Warriors	14	1	2	11	9	42	-33	5
Bossy	12	1	1	10	6	39	-33	4

WOMEN`S STATE LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
ROUND 14

First Grade: Marconi Fairfield 4 bt Moorebank Sports 1, Sutherland Sharks 2 bt UWS Macarthur 1, Eastern Suburbs 1 drew Nepean Panthers1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
NSW Inst/Academy	13	11	2	0	70	7	63	35
NNSW ITC/Academy	12	9	3	0	49	5	44	30
Marconi Faifield	13	8	3	2	60	12	48	27
Sutherland Sharks	13	8	2	3	35	12	23	26
Sydney United	12	8	1	3	56	14	42	25
Gladesville Ravens	12	5	0	7	18	45	-27	15
UWS Macarthur	14	4	0	10	25	60	-35	12
Moorebank Sports	10	2	0	8	10	45	-35	6
Nepean Panthers	13	1	2	10	13	70	-57	5
Eastern Suburbs	14	0	1	13	7	73	-66	1

Second Grade: Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Moorebank Sports 0, Sutherland Sharks 8 bt UWS Macarthur 0, Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Nepean Panthers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Marconi Fairfield	13	10	2	1	37	7	30	32
Sutherland Sharks	13	9	1	3	59	14	45	28
NNSW ITC/Academy	12	9	1	2	50	12	38	28
Gladesville Rvens	12	8	2	2	35	11	24	26
Sydney United	12	7	2	3	45	14	31	23
Eastern Suburbs	14	5	3	6	17	17	0	18
NNSW Inst/Academy	13	5	0	8	35	27	8	15
Moorebank Sports	10	2	0	8	7	35	-28	6
UWS Macarthur	14	1	1	12	4	81	-77	4
Nepean Panthers	13	1	0	12	8	79	-71	3

DIVISIONS TWO
ROUND 14

First Grade: Manly Warringah 2 bt Gladesville Ravens 0, Central Coast WSA 10 bt Bankstown City 0, Bathurst City 5 bt Sutherland Shire 1, Shoalhaven Association 1 drew Roselands 1, Wollongong City 2 drew St George Association 2, Shoalhaven Association 1 bt Wollongong City 0, Central Coast 3 bt St George Association 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Central Coast WSA	14	13	1	0	64	11	53	40
St George Assoc	15	10	3	2	42	14	28	33
Shoalhaven Assoc	14	9	3	2	46	13	33	30
Manly Warringah	14	9	2	3	39	23	16	29
Bathurst City	14	6	2	6	39	29	10	20
Roselands	13	4	4	5	29	33	-4	16
Wollongong City	14	2	3	915	30	-15	9	
Gladesville Ravens	12	2	2	8	8	24	-16	8
Sutherland Shire	14	2	1	11	22	51	-29	7
Bankstown City	12	0	1	11	10	86	-76	1

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE
ROUND 13

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc v Mt Pritchard	0-0	1-2	0-2	2-4
Stanmore Hawks v Parramatta City	5-2	2-0	4-0	1-3
Granv. Assoc v Mt Druitt Town Rangers	2-1	1-0	1-1	0-1
Hajduk Wanders v Hills United	0-4	1-4	0-1	0-0
Macquarie Sports v Hawkesbury City	3-1	1-5	4-2	1-3
*Mt Druitt Town Rangers v Parram. City				0-1

GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Ku-Ring-Gai	12	8	3	1	18	7	27
Hills United	12	8	2	2	30	11	26
Macquarie Sports	12	7	2	3	27	14	23
Stanmore Hawks	12	6	2	4	28	18	20
Mt Druitt Town	11	4	2	5	18	18	14
Mt Pritchard	12	3	5	4	11	15	14
Hawkesbury City	11	4	2	5	14	20	14
Parramatta City	12	4	2	6	22	29	14
Granville Assoc	12	3	3	6	11	21	12
Hajduk Wanderers	12	0	1	11	9	35	1

GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Hills United	12	7	3	2	26	11	24
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	7	2	3	25	13	23
Stanmore Hawkes	12	7	1	4	20	13	22
Mt Pritchard	12	5	3	4	24	17	18
Hajduk Wanderers	12	5	1	6	16	17	16
Granville Assoc	12	4	2	6	8	13	14
Macquarie Sports	12	4	2	6	8	20	14
Mt Druitt Town	11	3	3	5	11	16	12
Parramatta City	12	3	3	6	11	22	12
Hawkesbury City	11	3	2	6	14	21	11

GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Stanmore Hawks	12	11	0	1	33	4	33
Hills United	12	9	1	2	34	10	28
Hajduk Wanderers	12	6	1	5	21	14	19
Granville Assoc	12	5	3	4	22	17	18
Parramatta City	12	5	3	4	23	22	18
Mt Pritchard	12	5	2	5	17	19	17
Macquarie Sports	12	5	2	5	22	26	17
Mt Druitt Town	11	3	2	6	12	15	11
Hawkesbury City	11	1	3	7	7	29	6
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	12	0	1	11	9	44	1

NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE

Wednesday – July 8

Parramatta Eagles vs Ryde City
Melita Stadium, 8.15pm

ROUND 19

Saturday – July 11

Blacktown City vs Central Coast
Gabbie Stadium, 6pm

Sunday July 12

Parramatta Eagles vs Sutherland Sharks
Melita Stadium, 3pm

St George Saints vs Canterbury M'ville
St George Stadium, 3pm

Leichhardt Tigers vs Bankstown City
Lambert Park, 3pm

Eastern Suburbs vs Macarthur Rams
Wentworth Park, 3pm

Bonnyrigg W.E. vs Ryde City
Serbian Centre, 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885
(75c per min – IDS Higher rate applies from mobile and public phones.)

ABSW would like to thank this week's sponsors and advertisers:

- ACT Soccer Federation
- Alfa Travel
- Media Press Pty Ltd
- Music Front
- Pasco Vale Sports Scene
- Smyrnis & Co
- Sportsbook
- Sports Odds
- Sydney Olympic
- UWS Macarthur Rams
- Victorian Soccer Federation

'Support those who support Soccer'

AUSSIE FEATURES

With Aidan Ormond

TOTTENHAM GREAT NAME SUPER SIDE

Tottenham Central School has a secondary enrolment of just 35, yet 15 played in the 1998 Bill Turner Cup.

Tottenham (right) defeated Nyngan 6-3 in round one but lost, in the rain, to Warren 0-2 and the chance of a quarter-final berth in one of the biggest School tournaments in Australia.

Being so small in numbers, they rarely have regional success in team sports but, buoyed by their enthusiastic coach Miss Wales (herself a handy player in her time) and a supportive head mistress, Soccer success may be very close.

ABSW spoke to two of their most exciting players, Kelly Andrews and Dean Fairley, which, like their play on the park, they handled like professionals.

So Kelly we know that Dean's favourite player is Ronaldo, who is yours?

Kelly: "Christian Vieri, the one who grew up in Sydney."

And what do you both like most about Soccer Kelly?

"It keeps you fit and is enjoyable to play with friends.

Dean, who will win the World Cup?

"I think Brazil" (France chimes in Kelly!).

What was the secret to your win over Nyngan?

Dean: "I don't think there was a secret, we just put our minds to the task."

Kelly: "Team spirit and determined hard work."

And the big question, can you win it next year?

Kelly: "If the weather is good, and we stick together then yes."

Dean: "Yes, I think we can go all the way."

Well there you have it. A brilliant side based in Western NSW playing in the Bill Turner Cup. ABSW tips this side to do very well next year because they love their Soccer, and why not.

Go the Spurs!!

CHEAPEST PRICES TO SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE, USA & ASIA

BONANZA

SPECIAL REDUCED AIR FARES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

You will not be disappointed

RING NOW

9660 5736

ALFA

HEAD OFFICE:
1-9 Glebe Point Road
GLEBE NSW 2037
PH: (02) 9660 5736
Lic: No: 2TA001676
SHOP 36 Compess Centre.
Appian Way, BANKSTOWN NSW 2200
PH: (02) 9796 2761 • 9796 2953

THE K-MAN

The World according to Kosta Salapasidis ...

After the heartbreak of England's loss to Argentina (or the joy, depending on who you support), it brought back memories of Australia's memorable victory over Argentina in the World Youth Championships in 1997.

A stunning 4-3 triumph masterminded by Les Scheinflug and executed by the Young Socceroos' smokin' gun striker Kosta Salapasidis (right) who scored all four.

Since then he has continued his goal fest with Wollongong, in the Ericsson Cup, while on loan from Adelaide City. Kosta imparted his views to ABSW while at his home in Adelaide last week.

KOSTA ON FRANCE 98 ...

"I think it has been a good World Cup, although you couldn't say who will win. I also feel that the standard from the so-called smaller nations like Romania, Croatia and Yugoslavia has improved and there is not such a big gap. Infact, I think it was hard on Mexico, they should have beaten Germany. Even Iran did alright when everyone thought they would get hammered. Overall the standard is very high.

"As for Australia it is possible we would not have qualified for the second round, but having said that we would have done alright. Certainly USA were in our reach easily, and maybe we could have got a result against Yugoslavia and Germany. We could have done well but who knows, we will never know.

"Regarding favourite players, I think Adrian Ilie from Romania is good and Vieri is having a great tournament.

"Beckham's send-off, well he had to go because the standard had been set. Some players had retaliated with much more severe actions, but he did retaliate so he had to go. It doesn't matter what the retaliation is, if you do it you get a red."

KOSTA ON WOLLONGONG WOLVES ...

"My time at Wollongong was a great time, it was basically a very attacking side, playing some good games and making the playoffs.

"Overall I had a great time and really enjoyed it. The supporters were right behind us and they are very vocal and passionate.

"The publicity on the South Coast was great, always in the papers and TV and this coming season it will take off even more."

KOSTA ON THE FUTURE ...

"It looks like I will be going back there to Wollongong. Their people will start talking to the Adelaide City people pretty soon and hopefully it will be sorted out. Pre-season for the Wolves is in August so if things are work out, I will be there."

KOSTA ON NICK T...

"Nick Theodorakopoulos is a very smart coach and is a good communicator. So his ideas can get through to you and not confuse you. His ideas on how to play the game are very good and of course his attacking style is enjoyed by all the players who play under him. Definitely very good to work under from a player's point of view."

KOSTA ON MICHAEL BROOKS (new Wolves signing) ...

"Wolves new signing Michael Brooks (from Adelaide City) is really hard-working and a good finisher and will do well. I get on very well with Michael so if I do sign with Wolves it should be a good combination".

KOSTA'S FAV PLAYER ...

"At the moment Roberto Carlos of Brazil."

KOSTA'S FASHION TIPS ...

"France 98!"

KOSTA'S FAV MUSIC ...

"Dance."

KOSTA'S IDEAL WOMAN ...

"Sharon Stone."

Soccer Canberra

UNIT 2/3 PHIPPS CLOSE, DEAKIN, ACT. 2600 PH: 06 260 4000 FAX: 06 260 4999

Information Line: 1902 220 074 (Calls charged at 50c min – higher rates for mobile public telephones)
Internet Home Page HTTP: WWW.ACTSF.ORC.AU

By Graham Cooke

BELS BLAST BACK!

Belconnen United returned to the top of the ACT Premier League after a month's absence with a 5-0 win over Canberra City at Majura Oval - all the goals coming in a frantic first half-hour.

The Bels can also thank Gungahlin Juventus for holding previous leader Monaro to a 1-1 draw, allowing United to squeeze past on goal difference.

A record score for the season looked certain as Belconnen ran riot in the early minutes against City, but coach Lino Fiorese said his team lost its intensity after sweeping into such a commanding lead.

"Consequently, we were guilty of dwelling on the ball too long in the second half," he said.

"But I don't want to grumble too much - we had an excellent first 40 minutes."

United's scorers were Marko Perinovic (2), Ray Junna, Scott Manson and Matt Whyte. City boss Steve Bryant said he could not understand how his team had collapsed so completely after such a fighting performance against the same opposition in the Federation Cup final the previous week. In that game it had taken a golden goal in extra time to seal City's fate.

"We had a chance to get out there and avenge the cup loss, and we blew it," he said.

The 44-year-old veteran did not pick himself for the match, as he had done for the previous two games. "It was my hope they could do without me," he said. "But if it means I have to go out there with them, then so be it."

City, second from the bottom of the table, can at least take heart from the fact the teams around them did little better, bottom placed University of Canberra going down 3-0 at Canberra Deakin and Queanbeyan City losing 2-0 to Weston Creek Royals.

The three points were desperately needed by Deakin, which is struggling to keep in touch with the top four - even so, unless there is a dramatic reversal of form in the second round, last year's grand finalist has probably left its run too late.

Coach Marko Vrkic can at least take heart from the fact Deakin's seemingly inexhaustable supply of young talent is beginning to reshape his team for future years - the scorers against the University included Ante Rakic, the 17-year-old brother of Monaro star John, who found the net in his Premier League debut.

Others on the mark for Deakin included Anthony Barac and Marcello Munoz.

Queanbeyan City, playing for the first time since a 9-1 thrashing by Juventus two weeks ago, had a miserable first half against Weston Creek Royals, and was lucky to go into the half-time break trailing by a single goal from Steve Lazzari.

One or two positional changes and a good talking to transformed Queanbeyan and for long periods it took the game to the Creek until a Hani Adhami strike sealed the contest.

Weston Creek had Adhami's younger brother, Hassan, making his league debut in goal in place of the injured Steve Wilkinson.

League leader Monaro conceded its fifth score draw of the season against Gungahlin Juventus, but it could have been worse.

With eight minutes remaining neither side had found the net, and the game appeared to be heading for a score-less draw, for which there is only one point apiece.

Then John Nelson gave Monaro the lead, but celebrations were premature and John Glass equalised in the third minute of stoppage time.

But maybe the team to watch in the second half of the season is the reigning premier, Canberra Olympic. It beat Capital City Suns 2-1 at O'Connor Oval, and but for a momentary lapse of concentration on the part of Baz Giampaolo would have had a bigger margin.

Olympic took the lead after 11 minutes. The move began unpromisingly as defender Takis Arvanitis appeared to have wasted a free kick by slamming the ball straight into the Suns' wall.

Such was the force of the shot that he was able to collect the rebound and have another go. This time a lob found Pino Seminara with his back to goal - an overhead kick surprised everyone, including goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca who could not stop it going into the net.

Peter Buljan had a couple of chances for the Suns before the eventual equaliser. David Palywoda found a powerful run by Gino Balloon two hot to handle, and the wide player cooly slipped the ball past the advancing goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou.

The deadlock lasted three minutes. A fierce drive from Njegosh Popovich deflected off Buljan, in the unfamiliar role of defender, and ended up in the back of the net.

The first round between these two teams had ended 3-3 and at half time that seemed a likely outcome again. Instead the second half was an anti-climax, with Olympic generally in command.

Giampaolo should have scored when he sprung the offside trap, went round Giannasca and pushed the ball towards the yawning goal, but a never-say-die effort from full back Rolly Fernandez saw him just get a toe to the ball to poke it to safety for a corner.

There was nothing under-hit about Giampaolo's next effort, but this time Giannasa was ready and waiting to palm the shot over the cross bar in the finest save of the match.

The Suns best effort came from the unlucky Buljan - a cross which rolled unimpeded across the face of the Olympic goal and out of play on the far side.

The result means the two sides swop places at third and fourth in the league - something which concerns Suns' coach Bill Dojcinoski. "Olympic has a strong squad with Alex Castro and David Arranz added," he said. "We may be losing some in the next few weeks, when the Canberra Cosmos return to full-time training."

But all is not despair with the resourceful Dojcinoski predicting that with players returning from injury and overseas, his squad will not be seriously disadvantaged.

JUNNA, MURRAY NEW ACADEMY COACHES

Belconnen United midfielder Ray Junna and Burns Club team boss Ian Murray have been appointed men's and women's coaches respectively of the ACT Academy of Sport.

They replace Chris Tanzey, who was in charge of both squads in a full-time capacity. Junna, who as player-coach, led Canberra Olympic to last year's premiership, said he was not sure how his new job would affect his place in United's team. "I have got to sit down with [Belconnen coach] Lino Fiorese and thrash it out," he said. "It's entirely up to him."

The Academy plays in the National Youth League during the summer, and Junna said it would soon be time to get the squad together "and start working on a few things".

He did not believe there would be many changes, as the age limit went from under 18 to 19 this year. "Most of the squad is playing for various teams in the Premier League, so it won't be hard keeping a check on their progress," he said.

Junna, originally from Queensland, came to Canberra in one of the early player intakes into the Australian Institute of Sport 16 years ago, and stayed on. He made his national league debut for Canberra City Olympians and after relegation in 1986 continued in the NSW Super League.

He returned to the AIS as a scholarship coach before taking over at Olympic which he left at the end of last season because he believed the club was not doing enough to develop a youth program.

Now he finds himself in charge of doing just that with the cream of the ACT's young talent.

Murray is no stranger to women's soccer, having helped Tanzey with the squad last season.

The two are long-time mates, dating from the days when they were both members of the original Australian Futsal team.

Like Junna, Murray is a strong supporter of youth development having introduced a policy at second division Burns Club.

At the beginning of the season he said the ambitious Burns should not seek promotion to the Premier League First Division until it had got this part of its administration working well.

CLOUDS LIFT FOR CANBERRA CITY?

Canberra City president Ramon Montero says he is "reasonably confident" his cash-strapped team can play out the season after a week of fund-raising, donations and talks with a potential major sponsor.

In a wave of support for the club which first brought national league soccer to the ACT in 1977, Montero said he had been accepting donations all week from supporters, players, even rivals in the ACT Premier League.

"For instance, Monaro has offered us the use of its premises free of charge for a fund-raising function," he said. "Our junior club, Majura, has made a substantial donation.

"I am surprised and very touched by the level of support. There is a genuine desire within the soccer community that the club not fold."

He said City was "very close" in negotiations with a major sponsor which could provide half of the $10,000 it needs to pay its way though the rest of the season.

"We have taken the initiative here and asked that the sponsor come on board not just for this season, but for next as well," Montero said.

"I believe we should use this heightened awareness to try and secure City's long-term future."

The club faced disaster when, on June 25, the board of its licensed premises, the City Club of Canberra, voted to withdraw all financial support.

The board cited the downturn in the ACT economy, which has hit the licensed club industry, and its previous six-figure backing for the Canberra Cosmos in the Ericsson Cup.

Montero, who is also president of the City Club, said he agreed with the decision. "If it had tried to continue its support, it would have been the one to go," he said. "And if that had happened Canberra City would also have gone, and gone for ever."

As it is, there is now a good chance it can trade its way out of difficulties, as it did once before after relinquishing the national league team.

The long-term future is not unpromising. It is situated in the heart of Canberra's central business district, and with the new Garema Court office complex opening just metres away, is well placed to take advantage of any economic improvement.

LYONS BENFICA BOUND?

Capital City Suns' talented attacking midfielder Shane Lyons is being given a trial with the famous Portuguese club, Benfica.

He will leave on August 7 and, depending on his success, will be away for two months.

"The Suns are sending me with their blessing," he said. "They told me they will never stand in the way of a young player who wants to better himself."

If things do not work out in Portugal, he will move on to England where he has been lined up with dates at Premier League clubs Coventry City and Leeds United - the club where Socceroo striker Harry Kewell is making his name.

The trials have been arranged by former ACT Soccer Federation president Charlie Perkins.

NOVELL ACT P/L

Division One
Round 10 Sunday, July 12

Belconnen United	v	Canberra Deakin	Hawker Oval
Monaro	v	Canberra City	High Street
Uni of Canberra	v	Canberra Olympic	University Oval
Capital City Suns	v	Queanbeyan City	O'Connor Oval
Weston Creek Royals	v	Gungahlin Juventus	Woden Park

Firsts 2pm Under 23s noon

Division Two
Round 14 Saturday, July 11

O'Connor Eagles	v	Defence Academy	O'Connor Oval
White Eagles	v	ANU	Hughes Oval No 1 (1)
Tuggeranong Utd	v	Burns Club	Kambah Oval No 2 (1)
Cooma	v	Canberra Defence	Nijong Oval

Firsts 3pm Under 23s 1pm

Division 1

Canberra City	0	Belconnen United	5
Canberra Deakin	3	University of Canberra	0
Canberra Olympic	2	Capital City Suns	1
Queanbeyan City	0	Weston Creek Royals	2
Gungahlin Juventus	1	Monaro	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	PTS
Belconnen United	10	7	2	0	1	27	10	25
Monaro	10	5	5	0	0	25	12	25
Canberra Olympic	10	6	2	0	2	22	17	22
Capital City Suns	10	5	3	0	2	25	18	21
Gungahlin Juventus	10	4	2	1	3	21	12	17
Weston Creek Royals	10	5	1	0	4	21	18	17
Canberra Deakin	10	3	3	1	3	13	12	16
Queanbeyan City	10	1	2	0	7	19	38	7
Canberra City	10	2	0	0	8	15	27	6
University of Canberra	10	0	2	0	8	8	31	4

Golden Boot (after Round 9)

Peter Buljan	**Capital City Suns**	**9**
Matt Valeri	Gungahlin Juventus	8
Marko Perinovic	Belconnen United	7
Marcello Fernandez	Canberra Olympic	7
Scott Manson	Belconnen United	6
Steve Lazzari	Weston Creek Royals	6
Shane Lyons	Capital City Suns	5
George Cattanach	Gungahlin Juventus	5
Daniel Macor	Monaro	5

Under 23s:

Canberra City 0 Belconnen United 1, Canberra Deakin 5 University of Canberra 1, Canberra Olympic 1 Capital City Suns 2, Queanbeyan City 2 Weston Creek Royals 3, Gungahlin Juventus 1 Monaro 1.

Points:

Gungahlin Juventus 29, Canberra Deakin 20, University of Canberra 18, Belconnen United 17, Queanbeyan City 15, Weston Creek Royals 14, Canberra City 13, Monaro 11, Capital City Suns 11, Canberra Olympic 0.

Youth:

Belconnen Strikers 2 Canberra City 1, Weston Creek Royals 2 Belconnen United 2, St Edmund's 1 Canberra Deakin 3, Canberra Olympic 0 Tuggeranong United 2, Gungahlin Juventus 2 Capital City Suns 2, University of Canberra 0 Radford 0.

Points:

Belconnen United 26, Weston Creek Royals 23, University of Canberra 21, Gungahlin Juventus 19, Canberra Deakin 19, Tuggeranong United 17, Radford 15, Capital City Suns 15, Belconnen Strikers 15, St Edmund's 14, Canberra City 13, Goulburn City 6, Queanbeyan City 2, Canberra Olympic 0.

Masters:

White Eagles 4 Kambah Old Boys 2.

Victorian Soccer Federation

DANDY DISASTER!

SUNSHINE 4
SOUTH DANDENONG 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Dandenong's run of victories came to an abrupt halt at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday, going down 1-4 to a rampant Sunshine Georgies.

The loss, combined with wins for both Moorabbin and Heidelberg, brings South Dandy right back into the relegation frame.

They had the better of the opening exchanges, Carlo Villani hit a post with a curling effort from 30 metres in the 35th minute.

But just a minutes later the home side took the lead when Alfonso Opazo ran onto a long ball from Pece Siveski, shrugged off two challenges, and beat Omar Bradford.

In the 56th, a John Kanesoulis shot from just outside the area was too good for Bradford adn ten minutes later an easy finish for Ilija Dragicevic took the game out of South's reach.

They did claim one goal back in the 72nd minute, Villani finishing off after he had been played through by Reshat Mezensof.

But Anthony Magnacca gave Sunshine a three goal advantage again shortly after with a cool bit of work to beat Justin Geri and then Bradford.

South Dandy didn't give up and they continued to create opportunities, Villani struck the woodwork again six minutes before time.

Georgies: Wardle, Kanesoulis, Byrne, Krajacic, De Bono, Gurpinar, Siveski, Opazo (Stojanovski), Vassallo (N.Trpcevski), Dragicevic, Magnacca (Komadina).

South: Bradford, Dzaferovski (Memedovski), Bell, May, Geri, Savage, Muriqi, Memeti, Corallo, Villani, R.Mezensof.

Votes: 3- Siveski (SG), 2- Magnacca (SG), 1- Kanesoulis (SG)

LENETIS' STUNNERS

HEIDELBERG 2
SPRINGVALE WE 0

By Milan Ninovic

Heidelberg United collected another three precious points in their bid to stave off relegation, beating Springvale White Eagles 2-0 at the Olympic Village on Sunday.

George Lenetis was the hero for the Bergers, scoring two stunning goals in the second half.

The White Eagles had the better of the first half and had a goal ruled out right on half time.

Marijan Marinkovic headed into the net but referee Perry Mur ruled it out for a foul on Bergers 'keeper Bojo Jevdjevic.

Seven minutes into the second period, Lenetis scored the first of his wonder goals, surprising White Eagles 'keeper Robert Brian and everyone else when his shot from 40 metres flew into the top corner.

Springvale were then denied by a world class stop from Jevdjevic who saved Alex Kuzmanovic's shot from the edge of the area.

Lenetis wrapped up the win in fine style with his second two minutes from time, beating Brian again, this time from 30 metres out.

United: Jevdjevic, Makris, Tsonis, Georgiadis, Hasler, Svigos, Canosa (Amiridis), Lenetis, Tsoumerkas, Stefanidis (Harbis), Grigorakis.

White Eagles: Brian, Wallace, R.Marinkovic, Kuzmanovic, Kitanovski, Nikolic, M.Marinkovic (Di Iorio), Burlak, Calomino, Seci (V.De La Plaza), Culibrk.

Votes: 3- Lenetis (HU), 2- Kuzmanovic (SWE), 1- Jevdjevic (HU)

FAWKNER BATTLE ON

FAWKNER 1
BULLEEN 1

By Bert Van Bedaf

Fawkner Blues face a struggle to hang onto their place in the top five after drawing 1-1 against Bulleen Inter Kings on Sunday.

Fawkner have not recorded a win since round 15 and the early pacesetters are now in danger of being overhauled by Green Gully for what is likely to be the final spot in the top five.

The day didn't get off to a great start for the Blues, a fire during the night had caused an estimated $60,000 worth of damage to their clubrooms.

Despite this, Fawkner had the best of the first half. Marco Di Sauro came close early on when he hit the post from an Ivan Duzel cross in the 21st minute.

Santo Emmanuele gave the Blues the lead on the half hour, finishing off a great through ball from Joe Biskic.

Fawkner were denied again by the frame of the goal in the 79th minute. Biskic's cut back found Emmanuele but this time his shot came back off the underside of the crossbar.

Maurice Gonzalez produced a terrific double save in the 87th minute, stopping Damian Everetts and then clearing Anthony Grbac's effort away for a corner.

From that corner, Bulleen substitute Damon Collina equalised with his head.

Blues: Gonzalez, Tramontana, Grimaud, Di Sauro, Schipano, De Santis, T.Simsek (Sterjovski), Emmanuele, Biskic, Duzel, K.Simsek.

Kings: Keogh, Valentic (D.Collina), Everetts, Della Rocca, Mazzini, Atanasovski, Waddell, Gnjidic, Sherifovski (Tartaglia), Grbac, Hollingsworth.

Votes: 3- Duzel (FB), 2- Biskic (FB), 1- Atanasovski (BK)

MAGIC SHOCK LOSS

BENTLEIGH 2
ALTONA 1

Altona Magic suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Bentleigh Greens 1-2 at Kingston Heath on Sunday.

Bentleigh struck first blood in the 35th minute when a powerful strike by Harry Micheil from 25 metres, Altona 'keeper Darren McGrath had difficulties stopping the ball.

Altona equalised a minute before the half time interval through a Zoran Petrevski header from close range.

Magic's top goalscorer Sash Becvinovski could have given his team the lead from the penalty spot, but he had it saved by Bentleigh 'keeper Glenn Clarke.

The winning goal was scored in the 79th minute through a Theo Constantinou header which went through a sea of bodies.

Bentleigh coach Harry Chalkidis is expected to return home from an overseas trip within the next three or four weeks.

Greens: Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil (Kotsovolos), Oter, Constantionu, Drakos, Hastie, Van Egmond, Healey, Morieira (Todorovski), Rossios.

Magic: McGrath, Velkovski, Runje, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Sapazovski, Fak, Petrevski, Vasilevski (Cergovski).

Votes: 3- Clarke (BG), 2- Rusmir (AM), 1- Drakos (BG)

CITY STILL IN IT

PRESTON 0
MOORABBIN 1

By George Koukeris

Moorabbin City's inaugural season in the Premier League is still alive after a courageous 1-0 win at Preston Lions on Sunday.

In the 24th minute Moorabbin's Ciaran Feehan received a favourable decision from referee Senko Rastocic who adjudged that he was being held by Preston's Danny Lisolajski in the penalty area which Feehan himself converted.

In the second stanza, the Lions threw everything they had at Moorabbin in a desperate bid to overhaul the deficit.

Challenges came from all over the field as nearly every Preston player pushed forward in vain for someone to provide the finishing touch.

In the last ten minutes, Preston created almost an endless amount of chances with the best one coming in the 89th minute.

Trajce Dimovski lobbed the ball over the defensive line for Anthony Burlak who was charging in from the right hand side, but the shaky forward, who played unconvincingly all day, failed to give the Lions a deserved goal.

The loss confirms Preston's 1998 season is all but over, they trail fifth placed Fawkner Blues by eight points with three testing games to come.

Lions: Acevski, Drogriski, Lisolaski, Ognenovski (Kotevski), Markovski, Burlak, Ivanov, Emsovski, Smirnis, Dimovski, Talevski (Chiodo)

City: McLaren, Naughtin, Graham, Marley, Jackson, Colosimo, Leopold, Durand, Pantelidis, Scrobogna, Feehan.

Votes: 3- Scrobogna (MC), 2- Feehan (MC), 1- Marley (MC).

PALATSIDES PORT'S SAVIOUR

ST ALBANS 1
PORT MELBOURNE 1

By John Rigas

St. Albans continued to hold onto top spot with a hard fought victory over Port Melbourne Sharks in dark and gloomy conditions at Churchill Reserve.

Port where without three influential players, Daniel Allsopp, Andy Vargas and Rodrigo Vargas.

St.Albans got off to a flying start with a second minute goal. Hardworking midfielder Slavko Rados set up striker Kon Sianidis who vollyed past goalkeeper Sam Frangos.

The Saints found the back of the net again this time in the eighth minute through top goalscorer Harry Karl, Karl's effort was ruled offside.

The Sharks applied pressure on St.Albans in the second stanza and in the 67th minute Chris Palatsides forced goalkeeper Marijan Vunderl into an excellent save.

Port were on level terms after 78 minutes when Palatsides scored after captain Bill Tsiakos set him up.

Port Melbourne star player Tom Sonsini was taken to hospital after a serious clash with a St Albans player.

Saints: Vunderl, Vukadin, S.Rados, Magdic, Cuze, Silic, Raspudic, Pelja (Katouik), Sianidis, Karl, Kozic (Kirichian).

Sharks: Frangos, Latinopoulos, Sonsini (Karakyriakos), Caimakamis, Tsirtsakis, Tsaltas, Heath, Knezevic, Tsiakos, Palamaras, Palatsides

Votes: 3- Palatsides (PMS), 2-Silic (STA), 1-Tsirtsakis (PMS)

CRAZY JOHN'S MOBILEWORLD COMMUNICATIONS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 16 RESULTS

Doncaster Rovers	0	Altona East	3
Richmond	5	Lalor United	2
Western Suburbs	2	North Geelong Warriors	1
Springvale City	1	Westvale	3
Ringwood City	pp	Westgate	pp
Melton Reds	0	Werribee City	5
Northcote City	0	Kingston City	5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westvale	16	14	1	1	62	10	43
Altona East	16	12	2	2	48	17	38
Western Suburbs	16	11	1	4	41	15	34
Werribee City	16	9	1	6	35	23	28
Kingston City	16	9	2	5	27	15	26
Richmond	16	7	3	6	30	27	24
Doncaster Rovers	16	7	2	7	35	29	23
North Geelong Warriors	16	6	3	7	27	23	21
Northcote City	16	6	2	8	30	42	20
Westgate	15	4	7	4	32	28	19
Springvale City	16	5	3	8	31	36	18
Ringwood City	15	3	1	11	21	40	10
Lalor United	16	2	4	10	24	44	10
Melton Reds	16	0	0	16	8	102	-3

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday July 12

Kingston City v Melton Reds
Werribee City v Ringwood City
Westgate v Springvale City

PREMIER LEAGUE

LEADING SCORERS

21	Karl (St Albans Saints)
19	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
17	Markovski (Preston Lions)
16	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
13	Lazarevski (Thomastown Zebras)
	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
11	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
	Genovesi (Green Gully Cavaliers)
	Corallo (South Dandenong)

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE/ ABSW AWARD LEADING VOTES

23	Magnacca (Sunshine Georgies)
22	Cuculevski (Thomastown Zebras)
20	Becvinovski (Altona Magic)
	Rusmir (Altona Magic)
18	Emmanuele (Fawkner Blues)
	Karl (St Albans Saints)
17	Gnjidic (Bulleen Inter Kings)
14	Fak (Altona Magic)
	Jolevski (Thomastown Zebras)
13	Biskic (Fawkner Blues)
12	Emsovski (Preston Lions)
	Tricarico (Preston Lions)

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Albans Saints	23	15	4	4	45	25	49
Altona Magic	23	14	2	7	40	22	44
Port Melbourne Sharks	23	12	4	7	43	28	40
Bulleen Inter Kings	23	10	10	3	33	20	40
Fawkner Blues	23	10	6	7	34	26	36
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	10	3	9	46	32	33
Sunshine Georgies	23	9	4	10	27	34	31
Preston Lions	23	8	4	11	39	36	28
Bentleigh Greens	23	7	7	9	28	38	28
Springvale White Eagles	23	8	4	11	26	37	28
Thomastown Zebras	22	8	3	11	37	41	27
South Dandenong	23	7	3	13	37	54	24
Moorabbin City	23	6	4	13	23	46	22
Heidelberg United	23	5	4	14	28	47	19

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE
THE GENERAL SPORT STORE SPECIALISING IN SOCCER
403 BELL STREET, PASCOE VALE SOUTH. PHONE 03 9354 2791
HUGE SELECTION OF BOOTS AND GOALKEEPING GEAR PLUS CLUB DISCOUNTS ON A RANGE OF ITEMS
Proud Sponsor Pascoe Vale/ABSW 'Player of the Year' Award
SPORTSCENE

Victorian Soccer Federation

Westvale v Western Suburbs
Altona East v Northcote City
North Geelong Warriors v Richmond
Lalor United v Doncaster Rovers

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 ROUND 16 RESULTS

Oakleigh	4	Regent Bulla	0
Essendon Bruns. Royals	4	Broadmeadows City	0
Knox City	0	Altona City	0
Melbourne City	1	Cranbourne	2
Frankston Strikers	1	East Richmond	2
Yarraville/Glen Eira	1	Maroondah Arrows	0
Mooroolbark	1	Old Scotch Waverley	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	16	12	2	2	44	12	38
Yarraville/Glen Eira	16	11	2	3	31	14	35
Melbourne City	16	9	5	2	33	15	32
Old Scotch Waverley	16	9	1	6	35	26	28
Knox City	16	7	4	5	30	20	25
East Richmond	16	6	6	4	15	12	24
Altona City	16	5	6	5	18	24	21
Frankston Strikers	16	6	2	8	35	26	20
Maroondah Arrows	16	5	5	6	20	21	20
Cranbourne	16	6	2	8	27	33	20
Regent Bulla	16	6	2	8	22	35	20
Essendon Bruns. Royals	16	6	1	9	22	33	19
Broadmeadows City	16	2	4	10	18	37	10
Mooroolbark	16	0	2	14	9	51	2

ROUND 17 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Old Scotch Waverley v Yarraville/Glen Eira
Maroondah Arrows v Frankston Strikers
East Richmond v Melbourne City
Cranbourne v Knox City
Regent Bulla v Mooroolbark
Altona City v Essendon Bruns. Royals
Broadmeadows City v Oakleigh

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 ROUND 16 RESULTS

Keysborough	0	North Coburg United	4
Banyule City	0	Keilor Park	4
Stonnington City	1	Fitzroy City	1
South Werribee	1	South Springvale	3
Frankston Pines	5	Diamond Valley United	2
Pascoe Vale	2	Bell Park	1
Geelong	4	Chelsea	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Geelong	16	14	1	1	51	12	43
Stonnington City	16	12	2	2	37	18	38
Diamond Valley United	16	11	3	2	40	17	36
Frankston Pines	16	9	4	3	38	22	31
South Springvale	16	7	3	6	26	22	24
Keilor Park	16	6	1	9	25	26	19
North Coburg United	16	5	4	7	21	24	19
Pascoe Vale	16	5	1	10	22	35	16
Chelsea	16	5	1	10	18	39	16
Bell Park	16	5	3	8	23	29	15
Banyule City	16	4	3	9	22	29	15
Keysborough	16	4	2	10	22	39	14
South Werribee	16	5	2	9	25	48	14
Fitzroy City	16	3	4	9	16	26	13

ROUND 17 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Chelsea v Pascoe Vale
Bell Park v Frankston Pines
Diamond Valley United v South Werribee
South Springvale v Stonnington City
North Coburg United v Geelong
Fitzroy City v Banyule City
Keilor Park v Keysborough

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE DIV 4 ROUND 16 RESULTS

Nunawading City	2	Melton	5
Western Eagles	1	Langwarrin	1
Moreland City	1	Seaford United	3
Clifton Hill United	1	Sandringham City	3
South Caulfield	0	South Wantirna	4
Sunbury United	1	Geelong Rangers	0
Corio	0	Williamstown	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland City	16	14	1	1	51	16	43
South Wantirna	16	10	3	3	40	15	33
Langwarrin	16	10	2	4	36	23	32
Williamstown	16	10	2	4	28	15	32
Seaford United	16	9	4	3	41	23	31
Sandringham City	16	8	3	5	44	29	27
Geelong Rangers	16	8	1	7	23	24	25
Corio	16	6	4	6	25	21	22
Sunbury United	16	6	4	6	21	19	22
Western Eagles	16	4	5	7	25	32	17
Melton	16	5	1	10	32	41	16
Clifton Hill United	16	4	0	12	19	54	12
Nunawading City	16	2	1	13	19	47	7
South Caulfield	16	0	1	15	9	54	1

ROUND 17 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Williamstown v Sunbury United
Geelong Rangers v South Caulfield
South Wantirna v Clifton Hill United
Sandringham City v Moreland City
Melton v Corio
Seaford United v Western Eagles
Langwarrin v Nunawading City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1 ROUND 16 RESULTS

Riversdale	0	Endeavour United	1
Templestowe Eagles	4	Glenroy	1
Lalor	2	Mitcham United	1
Croxton Park	3	Lyndale United	1
North Sunshine Eagles	0	Brandon Park	1
Springvale Condors		bye	
Monbulk		bye	

TABLE - Croxton Park 26, Lalor 25, Lyndale United 24, Endeavour United 22, North Sunshine Eagles 21, Templestowe Eagles 16, Mitcham United 16, Springvale Condors 16, Riversdale 15, Monbulk 14, Glenroy 13, Brandon Park 5.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Monbulk v North Sunshine Eagles
Brandon Park v Croxton Park
Lyndale United v Lalor
Mitcham United v Springvale Condors
Glenroy v Riversdale
Endeavour United - bye
Templestowe Eagles - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 2 STH/EAST ROUND 13 RESULTS

Monash University	2	Dandenong	2
Doveton	2	Dingley City	2
Old Camberwell Gram.	1	Morwell Pegasus	2
Newborough/Yallourn	2	Braeside United	2
Waverley Wanderers	3	Berwick City	1
Ashburton	2	Noble Park	1

TABLE - Morwell Pegasus 31, Dandenong 31, Waverley Wanderers 28, Doveton 24, Newborough/Yallourn 19, Monash University 18, Noble Park 16, Dingley City 13, Braeside United 11, Ashburton 8, Berwick City 5, Old Camberwell Gram. 4.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Noble Park v Waverley Wanderers
Ashburton v Newborough/Yallourn
Braeside United v Old Camberwell Gram.
Morwell Pegasus v Doveton
Dingley City v Monash University
Berwick City v Dandenong

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 2 NTH/WEST/CENTRAL ROUND 13 RESULTS

La Trobe University	2	Meadow Park	0
Hoppers Crossing	1	Melbourne University	2
Keon Park	0	Sydenham Park	2
South Yarra	1	Elwood City	2
Uni. of Melbourne	1	Broadmeadows United	1
Brunswick City	2	Ballarat	0

TABLE - Sydenham Park 30, Brunswick City 28, Broadmeadows United 21, Ballarat 20, South Yarra 20, Uni. of Melbourne 19, Elwood City 18, Melbourne University 16, Keon Park 15, Hoppers Crossing 14, Meadow Park 8, La Trobe University 7.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
Saturday July 11

Broadmeadows United v Brunswick City
Ballarat v South Yarra
Sydenham Park v Elwood City
Keon Park v Hoppers Crossing
Melbourne University v La Trobe University
Meadow Park v Uni. of Melbourne

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 3 STH/EAST/CENTRAL ROUND 13 RESULTS

Heatherton United	1	Clayton	1
Parkmore	2	Flemington Falcons	1
Endeavour Hills	0	Ivanhoe United	1
Dandenong Inter	2	Noble Park United	2
Collingwood City	5	Thornbury United	2
Caulfield United	3	North Caulfield	1

TABLE - Dandenong Inter 29, Clayton 27, Noble Park United 27, Heatherton United 27, Caulfield United 20, Endeavour Hills 16, North Caulfield 16, Flemington Falcons 15, Ivanhoe United 14, Collingwood City 12, Thornbury United 10, Parkmore 3.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
Sunday July 12

Collingwood City v Caulfield United
North Caulfield v Dandenong Inter
Noble Park United v Endeavour Hills
Ivanhoe United v Parkmore
Flemington Falcons v Heatherton United
Thornbury United v Clayton

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 3 NTH/WEST ROUND 13 RESULTS

Northern United	2	Somerton City	3
North Reservoir	3	Brimbank 2	
West Preston	2	North Glenroy	4
Watsonia Heights	2	Whittlesea United	1
Darebin United	2	Mill Park	1
Keilor United - bye			

TABLE - Mill Park 25, Somerton City 23, Darebin United 22, Northern United 19, North Reservoir 18, North Glenroy 17, West Preston 12, Keilor United 10, Watsonia Heights 10, Brimbank 9, Whittlesea United 5.

ROUND 14 FIXTURES
Sunday July 12

Mill Park v Watsonia Heights
Whittlesea United v North Glenroy
West Preston v North Reservoir
Brimbank v Northern United
Keilor United v Somerton City
Darebin United - bye

"Healthy Diet — Try It"

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 23

Sunshine Georgies 4 (Opazo, Kanesoulis, Dragicevic, Magnacca) - South Dandenong 1 (Villani)
Heidelberg United 2 (Lenetis 2) - Springvale White Eagles 0
Fawkner Blues 1 (Emmanuele) - Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (D.Collina)
Bentleigh Greens 2 (Micheil, Constantinou) - Altona Magic 1 (Petrevski)
Preston Lions 0 - Moorabbin City 1 (Feehan)
St Albans Saints 1 (Sianidis) - Port Melbourne Sharks 1 (Palatsides)

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

Round 24
Saturday July 11

Altona Magic v Fawkner Blues - Paisley Park - kick off 3.00pm

Sunday July 12

Heidelberg United v Green Gully Cavaliers - Olympic Village - kick off 3.00pm
Thomastown Zebras v St Albans Saints - Partridge Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Port Melbourne Sharks v Preston Lions - Anderson Reserve - kick off 3.00pm
Moorabbin City v Bentleigh Greens - Kingston Heath Soccer Complex - kick off 3.00pm
Bulleen Inter Kings v Sunshine Georgies - Veneto Club - kick off 3.00pm
Springvale White Eagles v South Dandenong - Serbian Sports Centre - kick off 3.00pm

Merci and

au revoir...

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR

MEET OUR NEXT WORLD CUP STARS

Swaffer, Krystyn
Nickname: Swaf
Age: 22
Hometown: Adelaide
Canberra: AIS Residence
Working?: Uncertain at this stage.
Relaxation: Music, movies, veging out.
Goals: Fitness levels back up, make touring teams, win qualifers, and be re-selected for AIS at end of year.
Prediction France 98: France.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Leake, Georgette
Nickname: George
Age: 22
Hometown: Gold Coast
Canberra: AIS Residence
Working?: Diploma of Fitness and Recreation.
Relaxation: Surfing, water sports, rollerblading.
Goals: To become a better player.
Prediction France 98: Brazil.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Thomas, Natalie
Nickname: Nat
Age: 20
Hometown: Broken Hill
Canberra: AIS Residence
Working?: Canberra Motor Village.
Relaxation: Drawing, golf, basketball, listening to music.
Goals: To be selected in the team for North Korea, World Cup Qualifers, and Australia Cup, and possibly play.
Prediction France 98: Brazil.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Taylor, Amy
Nickname: Tayls
Age: 19
Hometown: Canberra
Canberra: Parents' home
Working?: ACT Academy of Sport.
Relaxation: Shopping, being with friends, watching videos.
Goals: To become a better, more consistent player, cement position for World Cup qualifers.
Prediction France 98: Brazil.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ITALY CELEBRATE

While their men's side suffers, Italy has become the first of the European nations to qualify for the 1999 Women's World Cup with the Euro Championships still underway.

Their 2-1 home victory over Finland a week ago sealed their placing at the top of Group 2 and, therefore, qualification. Finland had gone into the deciding match with its own chance of topping the Group, needing to win by three clear goals to topple Italy from its mantle.

Finland set the scene by taking the lead, but Italy's Rita Guarino scored the equaliser in the 63rd minute. A dramatic finish saw Patrizia Panico became Italy's hero, producing the winning goal with her 85th minute strike.

The result celebrates the resurgence of football-mad Italy who failed to quality for the 1995 World Cup after performing so well at the inaugural Cup in 1991, where they went down to Norway in extra-time in the quarter finals.

Finland remains in the race for a World Cup berth, and will contest a home and away playoff against the second placed team in Group 4, either Denmark or Russia.

Lisa Casagrande: One of our future stars.

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

UWS MACARTHUR RAMS

The UWS and Macarthur Rams clubs are proud to announce a merger of their women's soccer programs, and will play in the 1999 Women's Super League conducted by the NSW Soccer Federation Limited as UWS Macarthur Rams.

The Board of Directors of both clubs after careful planning are certain that the new club will be a force in women's soccer and provide a career path for all players, especially for the junior development programs in the area.

The UWS Macarthur Rams will be coached by high profile coach Peter Davies and administered by the well-known women's soccer identity, Rob Laws. With the expertise of all parties, this will be an exciting time for all involved with the UWS Macarthur Rams.

Any players wishing to know more about the club and opportunities offered are welcome to contact Rob Laws on 9618 3928 (W) or 9605 5809 (H).

VIEW FROM FRANCE

Compiled by ABSW

I KNEW WE'D WIN, SAYS MARADONA

Fiery yet brilliant former captain of Argentina, Diego Maradona, said last week that Argentina's penalty-kick victory over England was "very difficult" but said he never doubted the outcome.

"I knew the game against England would be difficult, but my heart told me we were going to win," Maradona told the official Telam news agency after Argentina earned a spot in the World Cup quarter-finals after one of the most dramatic yet entertaining World Cup matches in Saint-Etienne last week.

The match is still being discussed and dissected in cafes and bars worldwide. Infact, ABSW was at Sydney Airport last week during the second half, and virtutally the entire airport was glued to the televisions as the drama unfolded.

The former captain of the blue-and-white squad, which won 4-3 in a penalty kick shoot-out, said "England was a tough team that gave us a difficult game, but ... we deserved victory."

Maradona, 37, starred in Argentina's previous triumph over England, in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, when he scored two goals, one with his hand — a deed forever etched in soccer lore as "the Hand of God" and the second, tattooed in the brains of players and fans alike for a different reason: its sheer brilliance and beauty.

The mercurial former player added that he is in talks to coach and play in England.

Diego Maradona ... bound for England?

ADIDAS A CURSE?

The "curse" of Adidas has struck again?

It seems David Beckham was doomed even before England's match against Argentina kicked-off.

His face was used in a national newspaper advertising campaign by the sportswear company, with the words 'After tonight, England v Argentina will be remembered for what a player did with his feet' plastered across his face.

Sure enough, the match will stick in the memory for Beckham's kick on Diego Simeone after he was fouled by the Argentine captain.

Beckham was sent-off and England lost the crucial second round game on penalties.

Perhaps Beckham should have been expecting the worst.

Of the four players used in the German firm's pre-tournament television advert, Italy's Alessandro del Piero hardly featured in the early matches after injury, the Netherlands' Patrick Kluivert and Frenchman Zinedine Zidane were sent off in their country's first and second games respectively and Beckham himself was left on the substitutes' bench.

Adidas's sponsorship contract with Beckham, reportedly worth $1m a year, is due to run until 2004.

The company issued a general statement supporting the player but did not comment on future sponsorship deals.

"We do not condone David Beckham's reaction to the late challenge and no doubt he will regret what has happened," the statement said.

"Beckham is an outstanding player. We believe he will learn and grow from last night's experience and we will continue to support him at club and international level."

Owens and Beckham: Will Adidas sponsor Owen and put a hex on him too?

FOOTBALL IN FASHION IN FRANCE?

With so many tickets going to the French, and not the dedicated supporters from other countries (of whom 99.9% are there for the Football), it may be interesting to see whether this has boosted the interest of the average French supporter, national team success notwithstanding.

Here is an intersting story that came over the wires last week on this very issue. It should also be noted that the regular tourist trade has been down not up (as you might have expected) in Paris.

With France making the quarter-finals, surely football is the talk of every town ...?

The answer, to borrow a phrase which is usually delivered with a Gallic shrug of the shoulders, seems to be — "Comme-ci, comma-ca".

In other words, the French can take it or leave it, although that attitude is likely to change if Aime Jacquet's squad look as though they have a real chance of winning the trophy.

"It's strange, but I have to say that the World Cup hasn't made a big impact on the French," says Trevor Steven, the former England and Everton midfielder, who also played for Rangers and Olympique Marseille, and who is in France as a broadcaster.

"The excitement tends to circulate around the games which are being played," he added.

"If a city is hosting one of the matches, the people there pay attention while it is happening.

"But I get the distinct impression that when the show moves on nothing much has changed."

Lack of co-operation? Certainly there were fears that the French might not respond with suitable vigour to the carnival of football in their midst.

Michel Platini, chairman of the French organising committee and one of the greatest midfield players the game has seen, complained about the lack of co-operation from Paris municipal officials when he requested their help to keep events in the capital flowing smoothly.

And the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, appeared on television to ask for the whole nation to support Jacquet's squad with the passion displayed by the Marseille fans.

What makes the slow burning attitude of the French so difficult to understand is that France has contributed hugely to the rise of the World Cup over 60 years.

It was Jules Rimet, a Frenchman, who proposed that the tournament be set up in the first place.

The trophy, which was presented to Uruguay, the inaugural winners in Montevideo in 1930, was named after Rimet and created by another Frenchman, Abel Lafleur.

Brazil kept the Jules Rimet trophy after their third win in1970, although it was stolen in Rio de Janeiro in 1983.

Enthusiasm? To be fair, there are areas where enthusiasm for the World Cup is huge. Apart from Marseille, the northern city of Lens distinguished itself with a boisterous display of support for France during Sunday's difficult second round tie with Paraguay.

That match was settled in extra-time when Laurent Blanc scored a golden goal.

"We really appreciated the noise the supporters made throughout that game," said Blanc.

The fans just kept driving us on even when we were feeling very fatigued. They played their part in getting us through to the quarter-finals and now we need them to keep it up."

Perhaps the French have simply been holding themselves in reserve until they can see how the wind will blow for France.

"If this was the rugby World Cup, I think we would have seen the French having street parties in those areas where the game is strong," adds Trevor Steven.

"Rugby is more of a social matter than football in France.

"Having said that, though, I predict that if France reach the semi-finals - and especially if they look as if they really could go the distance — the French will pour out from behind their shutters."

They Said It ...

"If I spend the whole of this week thinking about Brazil and all their great players, I would probably be terrified by Friday."
— Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel explains why the Danes were relaxing ahead of their World Cup quarter-final

"The town is a blaze of colour, with flags and bunting all over the place, and I have had my pub painted blue and white just for the festivities."
— Pub landlord Niall Cruisem in Foxford, Ireland, where the whole town was rooting for Argentina against England

"He's so good looking I won't know whether to kick him or kiss him."
— An unnamed Argentina player about David Beckham ahead of the England match.

"To send the English packing is wonderful. Everyone here was cheering for us. Now we are going to celebrate."
— Coach Daniel Passarella after Argentina beat England

"Everything went against us. It is a night to be proud — I don't know if it was destiny or not. Even with ten men we defended like lions. It is a bitter, bitter pill to take again. We are distraught. A handball decision went against us and Sol Cambell's disallowed goal. I don't know why that went against us."
— England coach Glenn Hoddle

"I knew I had trouble before the match. I could not even walk up the stairs without it hurting but I did not tell anyone about it."
— Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit, who played for France against Paraguay with a nagging thigh injury.

"They leave their section of the ground cleaner than it was when they arrived."
— A FIFA official on Japanese and Korean fans

"There is no weight problem."
Brazilian superstar Ronaldo, told by team doctors he is too heavy

VIEW FROM FRANCE

Compiled by ABSW

BABY GOL!

England striker Michael Owen's sensational goal against Argentina has been saluted by Brazil coach Mario Zagallo.

The Liverpool teenager's emergence as a world star has seen him labelled "Baby-gol" and "Ronaldinho" — Little Ronaldo — by the Italian press.

As Owen started to realise just how famous he had become, the French sports daily L'Equipe described him as the best teenager to play in a World Cup since Pele in 1958. And Zagallo, a member of the World Cup-winning Brazilian side, added to the list of tributes.

"The goal he scored against Argentina was a great one," said Zagallo. "He played as if he didn't even notice the weight of the England shirt, of representing a nation that means so much to the game."

"It was a beautiful goal and showed his quality."

Zagallo added: "I'm not going to judge him as the best young player since Pele, that's up to you.

"Every team has its best players. You can only find out how good they are when they play against each other."

OWEN AND JUVE

Juventus failed in a bid to sign exciting young England striker Michael Owen before the World Cup finals, the News of the World reported on the weekend.

Luciano Moggi, the Italian club's general manager was quoted in the paper as saying: "We have known about Owen for two years. We were receiving information about him long before he emerged in English football.

"We tried to sign him before the World Cup finals."

But English Premier League side Liverpool was not interested in selling 18-year-old Owen. "Now we know we cannot buy him," Moggi was quoted as saying. "But it is only proper a club such as ours should have tried."

ARGENTINE MEDIA GIVES REF 0/10

Argentina's newspapers rejoiced wildly over their team's nerve-racking World Cup penalties win over England but slammed Danish referee Kim Nielsen for what they said were crucial, heavy-handed mistakes.

Sports daily Ole gave Nielsen zero out of 10 for a list of errors including awarding what it said were two non-existent penalties and being too harsh by sending off England's star midfielder David Beckham.

"What the Englishman did cannot be described as dangerous play under the rules. It was a small reaction to a foul by (Diego) Simeone, who besides stepped on top of him," wrote Ole the day after the tumultuous game.

Ole thought Nielsen also missed a handball by Argentine defender Jose Luis Chamot in the area which should have resulted in a penalty for England in the first minute of extra time.

Other papers were less generous with Beckham, who Clarin said had stupidly got himself sent off. But they were just as scathing with Nielsen.

"He doesn't deserve another chance in this World Cup," wrote broadsheet La Nacion.

Argentina's hero of the day was goalkeeper Carlos Roa who saved penalties from Paul Ince and David Batty to give his side victory.

"This was the other hand of God" was Ole's headline to describe Roa, in a reference to Diego Maradona's famous handball which helped to knock England out of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

THE LEGEND OF SAINT DENIS

Whatever feats soccer players hope to achieve at the World Cup, they will be hard-pressed to top Saint Denis. He picked up his head after the Romans chopped it off and walked away with it.

The town of St Denis was built around the spot where legend says the third-century Christian martyr finally fell, not far from the centerpiece of this summer's tournament - the new Stade de France.

Once renowned as the "City of the Kings of France," St Denis fell on hard times in the 1970s and became part of the dreary suburban sprawl north of the motorway system ringing Paris.

But one reminder of its glory days still stands in the grimy main square - a neglected cathedral where France's monarchs were buried for 11 centuries and then exhumed in a grisly excess of the French revolution.

The flying saucer-like stadium, which seats 80,000, has become a landmark in its own right, its clean lines and sense of openness setting new standards for modern sports arenas.

Its arrival has provided a much-needed economic boost to the depressed area. More than five billion francs ($831 million) of public investment and 700 construction jobs are the immediate benefits.

In 1816 after the monarchy had been briefly restored, Louis XVIII had the royal remains dug out again and placed in an ossuary in the basilica, where he also brought remains which may - or may not - be those of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette.

Long-time resident Lydia Pinville, a costume-maker for a Paris cabaret, said she would not live anywhere else.

"You hear every language and dialect. You take a walk in the center of town on Saturday night or go to the market on Sunday and you see a colorful hive bristling with activity.

"The stadium will only increase this mixing of peoples," she said.

YANKS GO HOME!

Can Americans coach successfully at senior international level? It appears not. Carlos Alberto Parreira, Carlos Queiroz and Bora Milutinovic are at the top of the list to become the next coach of America's soccer team, U.S. Soccer Federation president Alan Rothenberg said last week.

Rothenberg called Steve Sampson's (American coach of US team in France 98) resignation "appropriate" and said he's not interested in hiring an American. He had dinner in Paris with Milutinovic, the U.S. coach from 1991-95 and the coach of Nigeria in this year's tournament.

"Bora, Queiroz and Parreira would be the three international coaches who obviously have the most knowledge of our players, our structure, the country. "There's no question about that," Rothenberg said. They're on the list automatically. After that, we start talking with people we know less about. I think the single most important thing is a record of success."

Rothenberg also said he will not impose any fines against players who spoke out against Sampson's decisions during the Americans' last-place finish in the 32-nation field.

USA in action at France 98.

WE ARE NOT AMUSED

And Reuters report that FIFA jokingly suggested on Saturday that Britain's Queen Elizabeth might not be quite as on the ball about soccer as referees at the World Cup.

The London Times reported that the monarch, watching the Cup on television, had leaped to her feet when England had a goal disallowed in the epic second round defeat by Argentina.

"We are not amused," she is reported to have jokingly exclaimed at a private dinner, mimicking the celebrated words of her 19th century predecessor Queen Victoria.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper, himself a British citizen, was asked about the report on Saturday.

He said he hesitated to comment on the Queen's remarks but added with a smile: "I'm not sure Her Majesty has a better understanding of football than the referee in that match.

"Maybe one of her grandsons does."

Prince Harry, younger son of heir to the throne Prince Charles, was in Lens to watch England beat Colombia 2-0 and qualify for the second round.

OOH LA LA CANTONA

Eric Cantona is to come out of retirement and play a charity match in aid of the French gendarme attacked by German neo-Nazi hooligans. The former Manchester United man has been lined up to play alongside Tottenham's David Ginola, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Rudi Voller in Paris on Saturday week.

The gendarme, father-of-two is Daniel Nivel.

VIEW FROM FRANCE

Compiled by ABSW

Tales from the Bean Bag

CONFESSIONS OF A COUCH POTATO

How much is that soul in the window?

by A. D. Akratos

When I was a young lad there was nothing I liked better than a good sleep. Whether morning, noon or night time, it was always the time to sneak in a few zzzz's, catch forty or eighty winks or better yet sink into the sweet oblivion of innocence that only children have.

However, as I grew older and time became an increasingly valuable commodity, what with school, work, girls and some other stuff I don't want my mum to know about, sleep deprivation became my constant companion.

Sleep, o sweet sleep, were I the Bard to extol in your magnificence! And to make matters worse, I own a TV of my own and do enjoy the sporting life — soccer, tennis, golf, league, union, basketball, gridiron, ad infinitum ... Suffice to say that when I didn't have a legitimate reason to stay awake, I could always find one in the sporting world. 'On ya pay TV!

And then, only a few short weeks ago the World Cup came round, and, as everyone knows it's a once in a lifetime experience and not to be missed. And I didn't.

Maybe it was the flashy/trashy and gimmicky SBS commercials that seduced me, maybe it was the screen charisma of chrome dome Andy Harper or the prospect of the sparkling repartee between Johnny Warren, Les Murray and Tracey Holmes (and her previous connection to soccer was....????) that dragged me from my bed, night after night, till I started resembling the living dead (even more than usual to be exact).

I began to haunt the house — creaking staircases, moans of anguish, and the dragging of chains behind me became my gig — and irrespective of the time, I was huddled around the teleoptical God watching the beautiful game.

It was during the Spain-Paraguay game (an enthralling a 0-0 as anyone could ever hope for) that this particular adventure begins. I was watching the game with my eyes closed firmly shut when a polite cough woke me. Startled, I looked around and there next to me was a tall, good looking dude in black with glowing crimson eyes.

"Who the hell are you? "I asked (always quick with those one liners)

"I'm the Devil!" he replied through a mouthful of popcorn.

Now let me tell you, the Devil incarnate happens to be my future mother-in-law and this bozo didn't look a bit like her. So there we were 10 minutes later, him pulling rabbits out of his hair, doing card tricks etc. trying desperately to convince me while I tried to stay awake. Finally exhausted, he slumped back defeated.

"Well, isn't there anything else you can do?"

"Well, I can make whomever I want win the World Cup!"

Now as you can imagine, this made my ears perk up. A lengthy discussion, followed by a longer written contract, and an agreement was struck. One soul, slightly used but of some resale value in exchange for one genuine type victory for England in the 1998 World Cup Final with a Michael Owen hat-trick. Why England? Well, I do like English football, David Beckham is ever so cute, but deep down I wish I was a jack-the-lad, bovver boy hooligan myself. And with a flourish and a stereotypical cloud of smoke, Bob (the Devil's real name) opened my front door and left.

Well as you can imagine, I was quite excited and in the next few days borrowed and stole all I could and placed it all on England and young Owen. And quietly confident I sat back to watch the England-Argentina game.

What the %$#@%^&*&%^% $##@@!@ (assorted English, Greek, Swahili and ancient Gaulish swear words)!?!?!?! Stunned I lay back in the couch, the remote falling from my suddenly nerveless fingers. I sat there for hours trying to come to terms with the fact that I was now homeless, a pauper and even worse, England were out. A polite cough brought me out of my stupor.

Bob, stood there, slowly turning red and scuffing the carpet with his right foot. A second later he was on his back being severely chocked and turning a most irradescent purple/blue.

"I can explain! I can explain!"

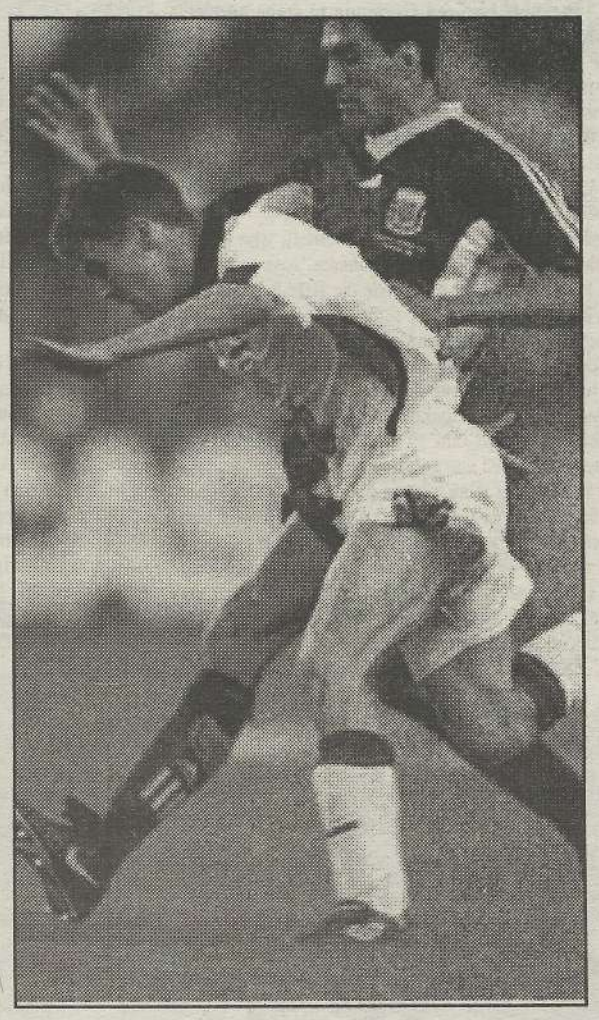
A rather hurried (and most inadequate) explanation was forthcoming. The Devil said yes, god said no and England were out. Seems Hand of God wasn't enough for those drinkers of warm beer. No, for these lads we had to have the Hand of God Mark II (handball- penalty not given), Foot of God (Beckham should have never been sent off) and the Head of God (disallowed goal). And after all God's God and the Devil just gets the leftovers, like mu soul. Hey, hold on one cotton pickin' minute.

Reluctanly and with mucho time wasting and attempts to distract me, my soul was finally handed back to me, looking forlorn and sad. Gratefully, I hugged it close. Bob, tears running down his face handed me a hundred bucks.

"What's this for?"

"Well, you could always go for Brazil."

End scene. Begin throttling afresh. Stop.



OWEN IS GAROTO?

It appears that a little striker from England, who is only 18 years old, is the main topic of conversation with Brazil's sports mad media and the players and coaches.

All that they want to talk about is Michael Owen. Every single famous name associated with the world champions' massive entourage wanted England to beat Argentina and pave the way for the 'Real Deal' to be staged at semi-final stage on a hot, steamy night of football passion in Marseille.

Pele, Zico, Mario Zagallo, Denilson — not one of them can actually contain their excitement at having seen the birth of something very special here in France 98.

From a nation which has spawned two of the greatest teenage talents of the 20th century, Pele and Ronaldo, this kind of praise needs to be soaked up and listened to in awe.

Pele opened the bidding with: "Football is always full of surprises and this World Cup has revealed Michael Owen to me.

"The only sad thing about what I have seen is that we didn't have a chance to witness him against Brazil - truly that would have been remarkable.

"I am full of admiration for the way he took his penalty and for the way he scored what is the goal of the tournament so far.

"I know that the World Cup stage is where you make your name but nerves can affect you — this young player has his feet on the ground and the World Cup has made him."

Now that Pele is a bureaucrat in the Brazilian Parliament and only wheeled out in Europe courtesy of MasterCard or Umbro, perhaps there is a temptation for the modern generation to think less of him and his opinions than this great footballer deserves.

Here is a man who scored twice in the World Cup Final of 1958 in Sweden, aged only 17, and yet his excitement has been stirred by a player who has been knocked out without getting near the Final. Think of what that says about Owen as an individual talent.

Zico, assistant head coach, said: "The little kid has been absolutely outstanding and what a career he has ahead of him.

"His goal was amazing, the build-up level-headed and full of purpose. He didn't waver for a second.

"Ask me if I'm worried about the team playing against Denmark and I will tell you that I'd be a lot more worried if I was playing a team full of little kids like Owen."

Like Pele and Zico, Bebeto is bubbling with excitement at what he has witnessed. "Owen was quite simply brilliant," he said. "I know that I should probably say all this about one of my own team's goals but his was simply brilliant. For a little kid to show such great strength and determination was astonishing.

"One of the great things about football is the ability to apply great talent and he is just oozing it.

"I liked the English style of play and would have liked very much to be playing them - what a show that would have been, Ronaldo and Owen setting out to run rings around each defence."

What keeps re-occurring when Owen's name crops up in Brazilian conversation is the Portuguese word garoto.

It is an affectionate and familiar term to use for someone and its use signifies not only the professional regard the Brazilians have for Owen but that they, instinctively, regard him as "one of their own" - a player who can thrill millions with his instinctive and natural performances.

FROM MELONS TO MAGNIFICENCE

In little more than a year, Brazil's Ze Carlos has gone from selling water melons to playing in a World Cup semi-final. Brazil's reserve right-back is due to make his international debut in today's (Tuesday) semi-final against the Netherlands at the age of 30, replacing the suspended Cafu, coach Mario Zagallo said.

This time last year, he was playing in the decisive stages of another competition - the second division of the Paulista championship, a regional tournament in Brazil.

Until the middle of last year, the cheapest player in Brazil's squad had not enjoyed the experience of playing for a major club, having spent all of his career with little-known provincial teams.

Although these clubs are in theory professional, wages are so low that many players supplement their income with other work. Ze Carlos alternated working on a stall in a market, where he sold water melons, and another job as a car mechanic.

"I'm privileged," he said. "God accompanies me and illuminates my steps. I've nothing to complain about."

His career was typical of run-of-the-mill players in Brazil and he has moved from small club to small club, rarely spending more than a year at each.

He began playing professionally with Sao Jose, near Sao Paulo, in 1990.

The next two years were spent at Nacional, a small club in the city of Sao Paulo, and 1993 at Sao Caetano, another small club in the industrial suburbs of Brazils' largest city.

In 1994, he moved to Portuguesa, a slightly less unfashionable team in Sao Paulo, but after one year there he moved on again, this time to Uniao Sao Joao in the small town of Araras.

He spent one year there before being transferred to Juventude in the southern town of Caxias do Sul, which lies at the heart of Brazil's wine-growning region.

Another twelve months later he went to Matonense, who play in the second division of the regional Paulista championship and won the title this time last year.

But this grinding routine of moving between small clubs changed in mid-1997 when Sao Paulo, one of the major clubs in Brazilian soccer, bought him for around $300,000 dollars, a snip compared to the price paid for some of his team-mates.

He made an instant impression at the same time as Zagallo was searching for a reserve for right-back Cafu.

In March, he was included in Brazil's squad for a friendly away to Germany and when Zagallo named his World Cup squad in early May, Ze Carlos was preferred to Parma's Ze Maria as Cafu's reserve.

Ze Carlos, who had never been out of Brazil before, brought a suit for the occasion - he did not possess one before that - but still seemed so certain he would not play in the World Cup that he arranged his wedding for June. That has now been cancelled.

Zagallo said he has full confidence in his untried player. "It's his first time in the national team but he's 30 years old and he wouldn't be here if he wasn't good enough."

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

EXCITING MEXICANS BOW OUT TO THE COMEBACK KINGS

AGAIN BIERHOFF/KLINSMANN SAVE GERMANS' BACON

Strikers Juergen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff inspired Germany to stage another of their legendary comebacks and beat Mexico 2-1 in the round of 16.

This would have been a disastrous exit for the Germans, but their legendary mental toughness saw them through in a dramatic finale to the game.

But Klinsmann pounced on a mistake by defender Raul Lara to stab home a cross from Dietmar Hamann for the equaliser in the 75th minute.

And with just four minutes left Bierhoff, who hit the bar the first half with a simple chance, rose to head a cross from Ulf Kirsten just inside the right-hand post to crush Mexican resistance.

This set up an intruiging quarter-final with Croatia, the side that Germany knocked out of Euro 96.

"I have to congratulate my team on the way they battled back from what looked like defeat to stay in the competition," Vogts said. "The way they worked for 90 minutes and battled was amazing.

"It was hot out there even in the shadow and, despite that, the players gave their all. That was by far our best performance and we will improve further."

Klinsmann added: "That Mexican goal was like a cold shower at the start of the second half. But we showed amazing fighting spirit. There is a huge amount of character in this team."

Round of 16: Montpellier

GERMANY	2
MEXICO	1

Hernandez's brilliant individual effort two minutes into the second half shocked a German defence which had lost veteran Juergen Kohler before the kick-off after he injured himself in the warm-up.

Indeed the Mexicans could, and perhaps should, have gone two up soon after their flaxen-haired striker had scored.

The German defence looked sluggish when 'El Matador' Hernandez picked up a short pass from Cuauhtemoc Blanco and weaved his way past Michael Tarnat and Christian Woerns before firing the ball past German keeper Andy Koepke. It was yet another piece of brilliance from the Mexican.

In the 61st minute the Mexicans might have scored again when substitute Jesus Arellano broke away on his own down the right. Libero Matthaeus tried to tackle but inadvertently hit the ball goalwards.

Koepke managed to turn the ball on to the right-hand post and Hernandez weakly fired a second shot into the keeper's arms with the goal at mercy.

Numerous teams have learnt you cannot give the Germans a second chance, and sure enough they bounced back.

Klinsmann demonstrated he has lost none of his finishing prowess in this, his last World Cup, to score before Bierhoff, the hero of Germany's Euro 96 triumph, underlined he is one of the world's most dangerous players in the air.

"The Mexicans played well but I think we deserved to win over the 90 minutes," Bierhoff said. "It is great to score the decisive goal but Klinsmann did the business too."

Klinsmann and Bierhoff each scored twice in first round matches. But their two goals against the Mexicans may be the most precious they will ever score for their country.

The Germans had their chances to take the initiative in the first half of a match played in afternoon temperatures of more than 30 degrees centigrade.

In the 38th minute wing back Tarnat hit a fierce shot from outside the penalty area which Mexican 'keeper Jorge Campos did well to save, diving to his left in spectacular fashion to save one-handed.

Two minutes later Bierhoff went desperately close to scoring when he hit the bar off a header with Campos stranded.

Mexico played lively, quick-passing soccer for 90 minutes and were Germany's equal in all areas of the field for long stretches of the game. Campos was superb, but in the end German experience won through.

"It was very difficult. I'm extremely proud of our players," said Mexican coach Manuel Lapuente.

"For a moment I though we might win. We lost, but we lost battling and giving our all."

Germany were knocked out by Bulgaria in the 1994 quarter-finals while Mexico have not reached the last eight since 1986, when they were beaten by West Germany.

The Germans, who have reached the final six times since 1954, winning three times, have gone out in the second round just once before, that was in the 1978 finals in Argentina.

The question is: How long can this amazing team keep coming back from the dead?

Klinsmann in typical fashion.

Mexico's Campos snuffs out another German raid.

'El Matador' Luis Hernandez

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

DAVIDS' LAST GASP WINNER STEALS IT FOR HOLLAND

MIJATOVIC'S PENALTY MISS VERY COSTLY

Edgar Davids scored an injury-time goal to give the Netherlands a 2-1 victory over Yugoslavia and a precious place in the World Cup quarter-finals where they will meet Argentina.

Yugoslavia had defended en-masse for much of the game but with 92 minutes on the clock they failed to pick up Davids at a corner and the midfielder fired home from the edge of the area, the ball taking a slight deflection on the way past Kralj.

The goal won the game because Yugoslavia's Predrag Mijatovic had missed a penalty in the 51st minute, the first World Cup spot kick failure in regular time for eight years after 38 previous conversions in finals tournaments.

Mijatovic lashed the ball against the bar after Spanish referee Jose Garcia-Aranda ruled that defender Jaap Stam had pulled the shirt of Vladimir Jugovic in the area.

Dutch manager Guus Hiddink admitted his side had been fortunate to escape but claimed some of the credit for the miss by the Real Madrid star.

"From my time (as a coach) in Spain I knew Mijatovic only reacts to what the goalkeeper does. So I told (Edwin) Van Der Sar to wait as long as possible to confuse him. We were very lucky," he said.

Mijatovic said: "Fate was against me. It was the worst moment in my career. Van Der Sar is a big man so I decided to hammer it."

Dutch captain Frank de Boer said: "That was the turning point. We took about five minutes to recover and then picked up where we'd left off at the end of the first half."

"We deserved to win ... it was only a matter of time before we scored the second goal," he added.

Yugoslav coach Slobodan Santrac said his players had failed to mark Davids because they were unsettled by a late injury to defender Sinisa Mihajlovic.

"We had bad luck, but that's part of the game. We'd been reckoning on extra time. But I congratulate the Dutch on their victory," he said.

The East European side, 1-0 down at halftime after goalkeeper Ivica Kralj let a Dennis Bergkamp 38th minute shot slip past him, shed their defensive inhibitions after the break and equalised in the 48th minute.

Slack Dutch marking allowed defender Slobodan Komljenovic to rise unfettered at the far post to head home a swirling free kick from captain Dragan Stojkovic.

But after the penalty miss the Yugoslavs' well-known lack of concentration hit, and they struggled with the Dutch from then on.

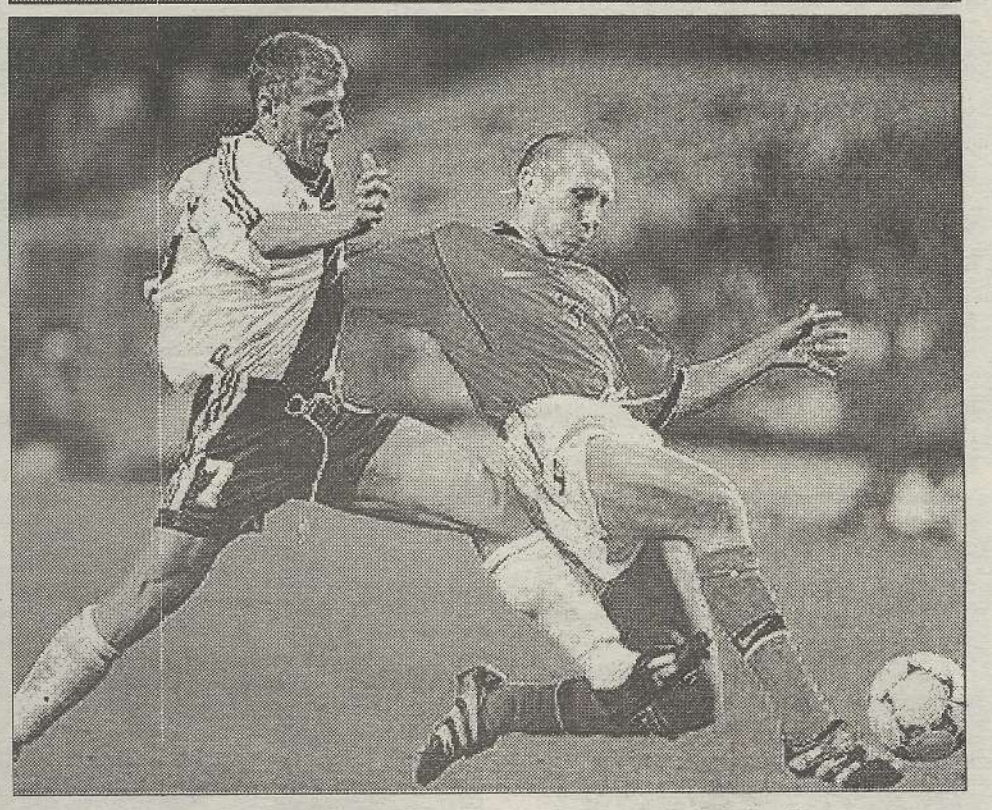
Just before the winning goal Kralj did superbly well to dive to his left to keep out a fierce shot from Clarence Seedorf.

Phillip Cocu should have scored in the 67th minute when he dived full length to meet a right wing cross from Ronald de Boer but sent his header a fraction wide of Kralj's left post.

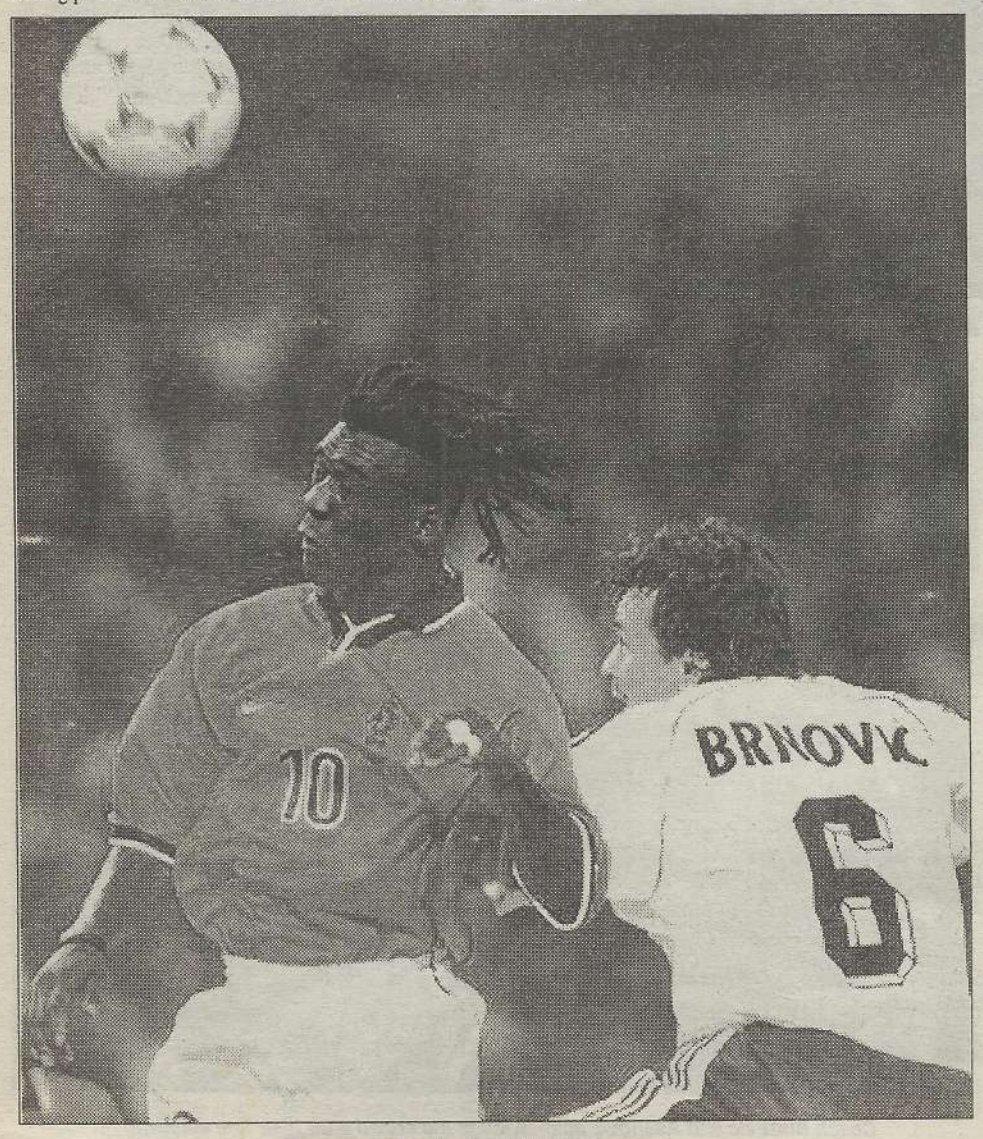
Cocu did put the ball into the net in the 79th minute but the goal was disallowed for dangerous play by Bergkamp.

Round of 16: Toulouse

HOLLAND	2
YUGOSLAVIA	1



Jaap Staam and Jugovic. The Dutch defender once again looked ordinary.



Seedorf and Brnovic.

Moment of fate ... the penalty miss by Mijatovic.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

SUKER GIVES CROATS REAL CHANCE OF REVENGE

UNINSPIRED ROMANIA EXIT IN HAGI'S FAREWELL PERFORMANCE?

Croatia reached the World Cup quarter-finals with a 1-0 defeat of Romania, thanks to a twice-taken penalty by Davor Suker seconds before halftime. It set up a revenge match with Germany in Lyon who, two years ago, knocked them out of Euro 96.

"Our little country has never achieved a result like this," said Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic. "I am extremely happy because we have defeated a good team that is respected in world football.

"We will do everything we can to get revenge and beat the Germans," he said. "The Germans are our friends and there is nothing better in sport than beating friends."

Croatia dominated a game in which Romania failed to create a clear-cut chance. They would have won by a far greater margin but for a magnificent performance by Romanian goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea, who pulled off a string of fine saves.

The winning goal came seconds before the break when Argentine referee Javier Castrilli ruled Gabriel Popescu had brought down Croatian midfielder Aljosa Asanovic in the area.

Suker buried his first kick in the left hand corner of the Romanian net but was made to take it again, apparently because other Croatian players had encroached on the penalty area.

The Real Madrid striker coolly fired his second shot into the same spot. "It was difficult, I think my pulse was running at 120 beats a minute - I was measuring it," Suker said.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordenescu made no complaints about the penalty decision and conceded his side were second best in his last game in charge.

"Croatia deserved their victory. They were much better, they were more cohesive and created more opportunities," he said. "I must confess the quality level of the match was low."

Round of 16: Bordeaux

CROATIA	1
ROMANIA	0

Head over heals ... Croatian joy after the win against Romania.

In the final minutes Stelea made three saves in quick succession as first Zvonimir Boban and then Petar Krpan, twice, shot from close range with the Romanian defence standing and watching the Croat shooting practice.

Earlier in the second half Stelea kept Romania in the game when he stretched and blocked a close range Suker shot with his right foot.

Stelea, who plays for Salamanca, also showed his quality in the first half with an outstanding close-range double save from Suker and then diving saves to tip over a shot from Goran Vlaovic and a thundering volley from Asanovic.

As expected the game was a tight battle in midfield with Asanovic and Boban clearly coming out on top against a disappointing Gheorghe Hagi.

The Romanians had their fair share of the ball but rarely troubled the Croatian defence.

In one of his final decisions as Romanian coach Iordenescu, who now takes over as coach of Greece, substituted two of the players who have served him so well in the past five years — Hagi and Dan Petrescu.

But even with fresh legs the Romanians could not get past a Croat defence described by Blazevic as "without a single fault."

Now Germany, who have not lost to Croatia in four meetings, lie in wait after beating Mexico 2-1. Croatia only became a separate soccer entity after the disintegration of the Yugoslav federation in 1991.

"Germans are always Germans but we are going to find a weak link," said stopper Dario Simic who had a superb game.

"They are always dangerous but we will certainly find enough strength to stand up to them."

As for the Romanians, this could be the end for one of their true greats, Georghe Hagi, however, in Ilie and Moldovan they have ready replacements for what seems still, a bright future.

Thanks for the memories Georghe.

Real's Croatia striker Davor Suker coolly slots home the winner ... "my pulse was running at 120 beats per minute," he said later.

Coach Blazevic and Asanovic acknowledge the crowd after their fine achievment.

FRANCE 98 MATCH REPORTS

Compiled by ABSW

ENGLAND'S ARGENTINE SAGA CONTINUES

DANISH REFEREE'S DECISIONS CHANGE GAME'S COURSE

Argentina didn't need Diego Maradona or the 'Hand of God' this time. However, it did need a shootout to beat a gallant England and advance to the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

Unable to penetrate England's defence, even when it had a man advantage for nearly the entire second half and 30 minutes of overtime, Argentina survived when goalkeeper Carlos Roa stopped David Batty's weak penalty kick on the final attempt in the shootout last Tuesday night in Saint Etienne.

Argentina won the shootout 4-3 as Roa also stopped Paul Ince, while Roberto Ayala connected on his team's final kick, setting the stage for Roa's heroics.

"It's the most dramatic way to end a game," said Argentina's coach Daniel Passarella, who captained the team to its first World Cup triumph in 1978. "It's very hard to watch it from the sidelines."

It was another tough defeat for England, which played valiantly after David Beckham was ejected one minute into the second half.

"We are almost distraught," said England coach Glenn Hoddle. "It's a bitter, bitter pill to take. Even with 10 men we set up so many set pieces we could have won it."

Gabriel Batistuta and Alan Shearer swapped penalties in the opening nine minutes, 18-year-old striker Michael Owen fired England ahead 2-1 with one of the best goals of any World Cup and Javier Zanetti curled a left-footed shot into the roof of the net for the equalizer off a crafty set play on a free kick.

And that was all in the first half.

Beckham got a red card one minute into the second half for intentionally kicking Diego Simeone, but England still found ways to attack. And it thought it went ahead 3-2 with eight minutes remaining when Sol Campbell, a standout all game and one of England's best in this tournament, headed in a corner kick. But Shearer was called for pushing off and, and even as Campbell celebrated on the sideline, Argentina began a counterattack.

But like so many others throughout the tense game, it went nowhere.

Before a crowd decidedly pro-Argentina in size — officials and fans in England have complained all tournament about a lack of available tickets — the English fans were in full throat for the entire game.

With a sea of blue-and-white Argentina fans at one end of Geoffroy-Guichard Stadium and pockets of mostly white-clad England supporters mixed among the Argentine flags and banners at the other — the game could have been in Buenos Aires, not the wine country of France. But then Owen gave the English much to roar about.

He first used a bit of trickery, diving to draw England's penalty kick in the ninth minute.

Shearer knocked it high into the left corner to tie the score (the first goal conceded by Argentina in the tournament).

Then Owen showed the type of brilliance that would have made Maradona proud. He sped around Jose Chamot, leaving him groping, and then beyond Ayala, two of the pillars of Argentine's defence. Then he easily beat Roa with a high shot to the far post for a 2-1 lead in the 16th minute.

Batistuta had made the Argentines sing with his penalty-kick goal in the sixth minute after Simeone tripped over goalkeeper David Seaman, who drew a yellow card for his troubles.

Argentina spent almost the whole first half attacking the middle of the England defence with no luck, mostly because Campbell cleared everything. But in injury time, Campbell was caught for holding just outside the penalty area. An intricate series of fakes on the free kick freed Zanetti for a 15-yard left-footed rocket to tie the score 2-2.

This 45 minutes was one of the most exhilirating of the Cup, but the referee's sending off of Beckham changed the nature of the game in the second period.

From an open and exciting one to a cagey and dour battle, Argentina struggled without success against the plucky English defence, ably led by Campbell and Adams.

It was scoreless for the next 75 minutes, and when the shootout began, the crowd finally was silenced.

After Roa's last save, the stands rocked with pandemonium, Pampas style, while the English players hugged each other, applauded their fans, and marched off.

Round of 16: St-Etienne

ARGENTINA 2

ENGLAND 2

AET: ARGENTINA WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES

Disbelief ... David Beckham sent-off.

Zanetti's joy after Argentina equalised from a free-kick in the closing minutes of the first period.

A picture tells a thousand words ...

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

FRENCH DELIGHT AS ITALY LOSE THEIR NERVE

Penalties: Italy's World Cup nemesis once more

Hosts France sweated through to the World Cup semi-finals on Friday as Italy suffered a penalty shoot-out nightmare for the third finals in a row. Despite the no goals, this was an intruiging encounter.

Luigi Di Biagio handed France victory by missing the 10th and last penalty, hitting the bar to trigger wild celebrations among the home fans in the Stade de France.

France won the shoot-out 4-3 after the match ended 0-0 after extra time.

France's Bixente Lizarazu had seen his attempted shot saved by Italian goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca while French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez also saved from Demetrio Albertini.

The win was thoroughly deserved by France who should have wrapped up victory well before the shoot-out

"The French deserved this victory after our domination of the match. I feel as I've been through the wringer," said French coach Aime Jacquet.

"I am very sad because our players gave it their all," coach Cesare Maldini said.

France dominated the first 90 minutes but failed to make the most of several clear chances and the mastery of playmaker Zinedine Zidane, who returned from a two-match suspension.

PARIS: Quarter-Finals

FRANCE	0
ITALY	0

AET: FRANCE WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES

Italy were penned back in their half for long periods but excellent defence, marshalled by captain Paolo Maldini, and France's profligacy in front of goal kept the match scoreless in normal time.

France appeared to tire in extra time and the game was far more even. Substitute Roberto Baggio could have won it for Italy late in the first 15 minutes of extra time but his volley went agonisingly close with Barthez beaten.

Midfielder Youri Djorkaeff had France's best chance in normal time when he broke clear deep into first half stoppage time on to a pass from Didier Deschamps.

With only Pagliuca to beat, Djorkaeff skewed an angled shot wide of the far post. Djorkaeff also had a clear chance saved by Pagliuca late in extra time.

Christian Karembeu wasted another great run and pass by Zidane when he shot wide in the 63rd minute.

Jacquet rang the changes shortly afterwards as France besieged the Italian goal in search of the winner.

David Trezeguet and Thierry Henry came on in the 65th for Stephane Guivarch and Karembeu, but the ball just would not go in for France, who had not lost to Italy in 20 years.

The veteran Pagliuca proved a big obstacle in both halves, saving Italy early in the first half as the crowd roared on every French move and whistled the Italians with equal enthusiasm.

Midfielder Emmanuel Petit, with his back to goal, had a dipping shot in the fifth minute brilliantly tipped around the post. A minute earlier, Pagliuca had just got his outstretched fingers to a shot across goal by Zidane.

Zidane was fundamental and behind all the best moves of a French side who were masterful until they came in sight of goal.

Italy, in their familiar blue strip that forced "Les Bleus" into white shirts, had a sniff of goal in the eighth when Francesco Moriero cut inside and crossed to Christian Vieri, the tournament's joint top scorer.

Vieri's header crashed into the side netting and it was a long wait for his next chance, a 34th minute ball at the near post that goalkeeper Barthez got to first.

Italy had barely a chance in the second half as France threatened time and again to settle the match.

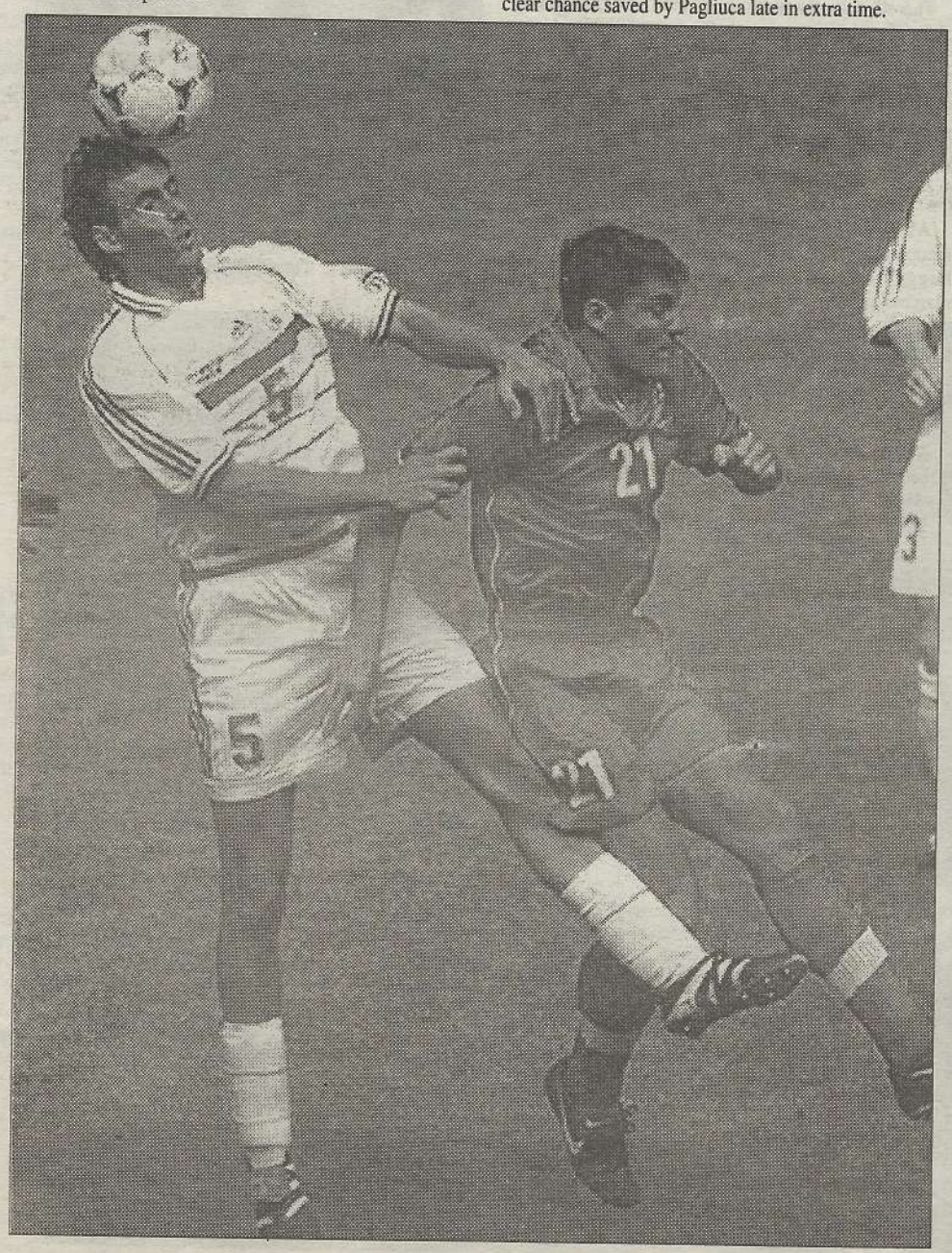
Italy had two bookings in the first half, Alessandro Del Piero for a tackle from behind on Didier Deschamps in the 26th minute and Giuseppe Bergomi two minutes later.

The out of sorts Del Piero had another poor game and was replaced in the 67th by Baggio.

Baggio had probably Italy's best chance of the match late in the first half of extra time when his volley from a cross from the right flew past Barthez but also past the far post.

But it came down to penalties and the heart-stopping moments.

Even French President Jacques Chirac was held in a spell. He was here to show all of France was behind us," Jacquet said.



Blanc and Vieri: Our boy Christian was well held by the French.

Barthez in goal for France.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME AT ITS BEST

Daring Danes turn on the style as Rivaldo cuts loose with his own Samba

Holders Brazil had to fight like lions to get there, overcoming a daring and determined Denmark 3-2 in a thrilling and exquisite quarter-final game in Nantes.

Two fine goals from the explosive left foot of midfielder Rivaldo, one a classic long-range shot which echoed the power and accuracy of Rivelino, finally settled the issue after the Danes, in captain Michael Laudrup's last appearance as a professional player, had taken them to the limit.

Denmark, having supplied verve and vim to a memorable night in western France, left with their heads high and their reputation restored.

By taking the game to the world champions and eschewing any temptation to rely on massed defence, the Danes gave Laudrup a worthy finale to his 17-year career and forced Brazil, so often lethargic, to lift their pace and their commitment.

It was a dramatic exhibition of valour as the Danes, from a country with a population of only 5.2 million, matched soccer's mightiest nation, with 165 million, in nearly every facet of the game.

"Denmark could have won this game 3-2," Brazil coach Mario Zagallo said. "It was open and frank football. Both teams were looking to play. Both teams were attacking and allowing the other team to play football. This dignifies the World Cup," he said.

Both Laudrups, Michael, 34, and his brother Brian, 29, showed their talent belonged in a Brazilian showcase from the start when Denmark grabbed a surprise lead in just 95 seconds through Martin Joergensen. It was the 150th goal of the tournament.

"We played an unbelievably good match tonight," Jorgensen said. "We can be proud all of us of the kind of soccer we played."

The midfielder's goal owed its origins to Laudrup family magic. Dunga, Brazil's captain - for whom it would also have been an international adieu if they had lost - had to foul big striker Peter Moeller to halt him after he had run past Junior Baiano. Michael Laudrup wasted no time.

His pass to Brian was just as quickly taken and transferred, with a reversed ball across the penalty area, for Joergensen to run and meet with a sweet low left-foot shot past a startled Taffarel.

It was his first goal for Denmark.

Brazil had to respond and as their fans bayed for a goal, both Michael and Brian Laudrup inspired their team mates with their skill, energy and invention, often tempting defenders into rash challenges, before a subdued Ronaldo made his first decisive intervention.

Having dropped deep to escape his markers, he collected the ball and, in one movement, made a perfectly-angled pass which penetrated the Danish defence to free Bebeto. The 34-year-old striker shook off Thomas Helveg and ran on to beat Schmeichel with an arrow off a post from the edge of the penalty area.

Ronaldo was also the architect of Brazil's second goal after 26 minutes. The hapless Helveg was caught in possession by Dunga, whe fed Ronaldo. The predator turned creator delivered an exquisite through ball and Rivaldo lifted an angled shot on the run beyond Schmeichel.

But Denmark were not done. With Stig Toefting on to replace Allan Nielsen and stiffen their midfield at the start of the second half, they drew level in the 50th minute when a Michael Laudrup shot was deflected out to the right where his brother Brian was lurking.

His rising drive from 15 metres was only exceeded for spectacle by the Brazilian winner which followed 10 minutes later as the game opened out into an end-to-end thriller.

Rivaldo, 30 metres out, collected a loose ball, took aim and fired his left-footed shot beyond Schmeichel's vain dive and in off his left post.

Both teams had further chances, a header from defender Marc Rieper bouncing off Taffarel's bar in the final minute, before the end brought Brazilian release and exultation. Unfortunately, it was at a price as Egyptian referee Gamal Ghandour cautioned six players during an erratic performance.

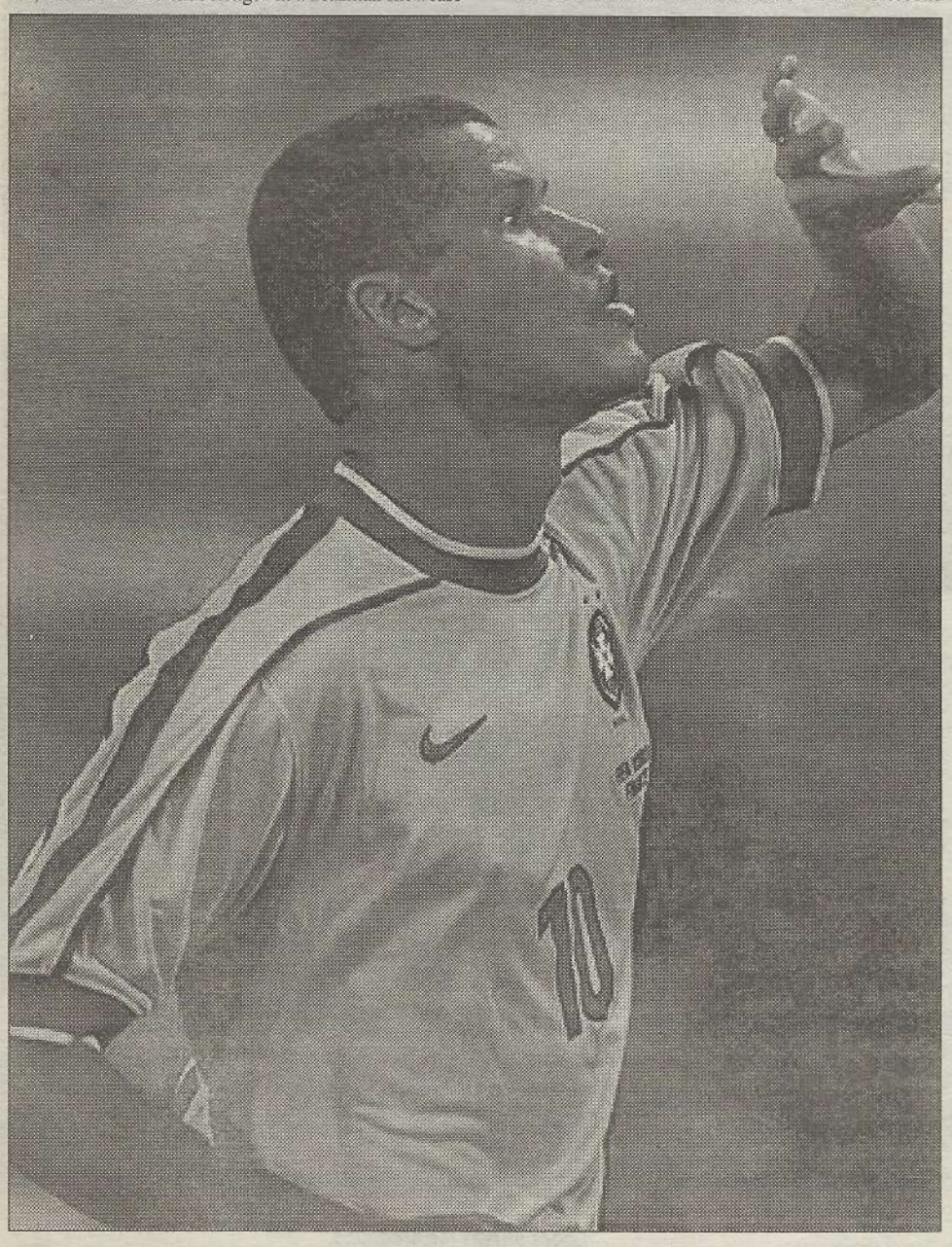
Brazil's trio included Cafu, who was shown a yellow card in their second round clash with Chile and will miss the semi-final, Aldair and Roberto Carlos, for a high and wild tackle on Brian Laudrup.

The left wing-back was lucky not to be sent off then and again when he appeared to 'dive' to earn Thomas Helveg his caution. Soeren Colding and Stig Toefting were also booked.

NANTES: Quarter-Finals

BRAZIL	3
DENMARK	2

Ronaldo gets to grips with Denmark.



Rivaldo after one of his two goals.

Roberto Carlos' stupid scissor kick that let Denmark in for their second.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

ARGENTINA'S HOPES MELT AS 'THE ICEMAN' STRIKES

Forget 'Hand of God' — 'Boot of Berg' sinks Argies

Twenty years on and the Dutch have finally exorcised the demons of the 1978 World Cup Final. Dennis Bergkamp kept his cool to score a superb 90th minute goal that gave the Netherlands a controversial 2-1 victory over Argentina on Saturday and a place in the semi-finals.

Argentina, in disarray after playmaker Ariel Ortega was sent off seconds earlier for butting Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, were exposed as captain Frank de Boer launched a 50-metre pass into the path of the striker they call "The Iceman."

His perfect first touch took him inside Roberto Ayala and his second drove the ball high into the net to set up a semifinal clash with champions Brazil later today (Tuesday) in Marseille.

Why am I so good?

Bergkamp called the goal the most important of his career and said Ortega's sending-off had motivated the tiring Dutch, down to 10 men after Arthur Numan was sent off in the 76th minute, to finish the game before extra time.

"There was everything in that match. The moment for us was when Ortega went off which gave us great energy," Bergkamp said. It was the first time the two teams had met since Argentina beat the Dutch in the 1978 World Cup final.

Ortega claimed he had been tripped by Jaap Stam in the area and was about to be booked by Mexican referee Arturo Brizio Carter for diving. Then he hit van der Sar's chin with the top of his head on getting to his feet and was shown the red card.

Argentine soccer chief Julio Grondona said Ortega's dismissal was a "very controversial move. Depending on how you see it, it was on the one hand a clear penalty and on the other open to doubt," he said.

"In that same moment Ortega was taken out of the game because he approached the goalkeeper and the goalkeeper threw himself backwards as if he had been killed.

"Whether it changed anything or not, it was something that happened and that casts doubt on the outcome."

The Dutch will be appearing in their third semi-final, the last being in 1978 when they went on to lose the final to Argentina 3-1. Brazil beat the Netherlands 3-2 in the 1994 quarter-finals.

The Dutch had much the better of the second half after a first 45 minutes full of chances at both ends.

Both sides hit the post in the first period - Wim Jonk for the Dutch after just five minutes and Ortega for Argentina just before the break.

But in between, both scored excellent goals.

In the 12 minute Ronald de Boer began a sweet Dutch move from deep in his own half, slipping past three defenders as he drove towards goal. He picked out Bergkamp on the left of the area and the striker cushioned a header into the path of Patrick Kluivert who coolly slotted the ball past Carlos Roa.

Argentina equalised six minutes later when Claudio Lopez timed his run to perfection to spring the offside trap and latch on to Juan Veron's pass. He delayed his shot before poking the ball through the legs of Van Der Sar.

Both sides continued to go forward, with Veron and the Netherlands' Edgar Davids ignoring the taxing heat to work tirelessly in midfield.

The Netherlands spent the opening 20 minutes of the second half camped in the Argentine half but despite endless possession could not find the final pass to get through.

On Argentina's first foray forward, 20 minutes after the break, the impressive Veron released Batistuta who cut inside and smashed a shot against the post with van der Sar helpless.

But the Dutch continued to control the midfield, constantly trying to release Bergkamp and Kluivert with quick passes.

They brought on winger Marc Overmars in the 64th minute and he immediately provided a great cross from the right, only for Roa to tip over Kluivert's header at full stretch.

But they suffered a blow in the 76th minute when Numan was sent off for his second bookable offence - a late tackle on Simeone.

Argentina, who were unable to score against England when they had a man advantage for more than an hour in the second round, immediately pressed forward. Again, however, they were unable to break down a well-organised defence.

The Holland Brazil semi will be an absolute cracker for those who love skill, pace and the 'Beautiful Game'. Enjoy!

MARSEILLE: Quarter-Final

HOLLAND	2
ARGENTINA	1

Kluivert celebrates his goal.

Lopez strikes for Argentina.

FRANCE 98
MATCH REPORTS
Compiled by ABSW

WE'RE THE BEST IN THE WORLD, SAY 'CRAZY' CROATIA

Germans cry foul as Suker and Co. gain revenge for Euro 96

LYON: Quarter-Final

CROATIA	3
GERMANY	0

Croatia's players could hardly believe they were in the World Cup semi-finals at their first attempt, however Germany blamed the referee for their 3-0 defeat last Saturday in what was the biggest boilover in in the tournament.

"We are still not fully aware of what we have done," said defender Slaven Bilic. "This is a dream come true but we are not afraid of anybody, we are sufficiently crazy — led by our boss — in a positive sense."

"When (coach Miroslav) Blazevic said two years ago that we were the best in the world, we all laughed. But we are laughing less and less now.

"I am not saying that we are going to be champions but it is now a fact that we have a good chance." Croatia play France tomorrow (Wed) at the Stade de France.

Germany defender Juergen Kohler slammed Norwegian referee Rune Pedersen, who sent off Christian Woerns when the score was 0-0, for his side's defeat.

"In my opinion that was a wrong sending-off — sure it was a foul but I was the last man (in the defence) and I think that referee lost it for us," Kohler said.

Croatia scored their first goal about five minutes after the sending-off in the 40th minute for Woerns's foul on Croatian striker Davor Suker.

"We had some great chances and the team should not blame themselves. We gave everything and I think the score was two goals too high.

"To go out like that hurts me. For me today the referee lost this game," said Kohler who retired after the game.

Germany coach Berti Vogts said his side were the better side until the sending-off and he declined to discuss any further the "provocative behaviour" of the Croatian players that surrounded the red card.

Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic said: "I am absolutely delighted with this historic result; never has Croatia come so far and done so much.

"Germany showed their typical character, determination and spirit. It's true that after the sending-off it made it difficult for them but that doesn't take anything away from our result. We had a hard and tough game but now we have to think very seriously about France. We're proud to have the opportunity to play against France in such a beautiful stadium. I hope we can put on such a performance there as we did here tonight."

Croatia Goalkeeper Drazen Ladic said his side were the best in the world. "We played extremely well. We deserved this win," Ladic said.

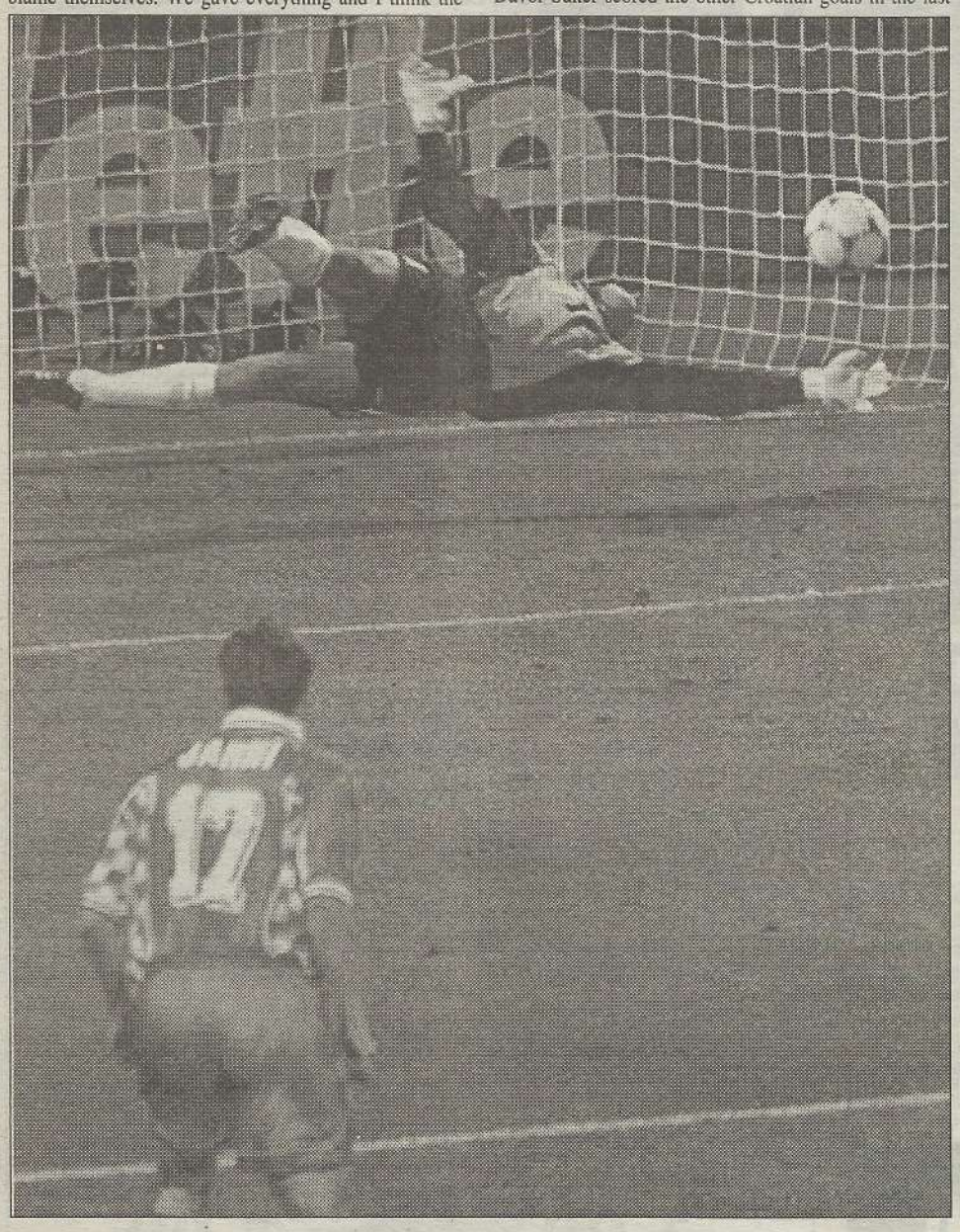
Asked whether the sending off had made a big difference to the result, Ladic said: "Yes, but nonetheless we played very well. We're all very proud of the forwards. Tonight we were the best in the world. This is not the end. We are going all the way." Goran Vlaovic and Davor Suker scored the other Croatian goals in the last 10 minutes.

Jarni dedicated the victory to the Croatian people who had suffered at the time of the disintegration of the Yugoslav republic in the early 1990s.

"Many people had a bad time in the war and we dedicate this to them. It's not just the most important win for me but for the whole country that has had such a hard time. We hope we have given them some joy," Jarni said.

Our strength was that we didn't push forward and we didn't lose our heads against the Germans who are so strong. We waited for the right moment for the second goal."

So once again a controversial penalty has had a major bearing on the result. Now Germany know how England felt.



Kopke stretches as Jarni looks on.

Bierhoff and Simic.

WORLD CUP
ANALYSIS & COMMENT

Phil Murphy
ABSW Wollongong correspondent

Did you notice a smile on referee Eddie Lennie's face during his two games in the World Cup qualifying rounds? The Scot who now lives in Perth is representing Australia in France.

No doubt he is enjoying every minute of it.

Little wonder!

Lennie and the other 33 referees at the World Cup will receive $25,000 for their efforts plus daily expenses.

The linesmen, sorry referees' assistants, will pocket $20,000 plus expenses.

Lennie was informed in February he would be on the World Cup panel. Since then, the refs have attended a four-day seminar in France as part of the build-up. They have also taken delivery of Yves Saint Laurent suits to be worn at official receptions.

Fitness is a prime requisite for referees.

It was interesting to note that every referee passed a fitness test which required him to run two 50-metres sprints in less than 7.5 seconds, two sprints over 200 metres in less than 32 seconds and cover 2.7 kilometres in less than 12 minutes.

Later the referees attended work seminars to discuss a number of subjects.

These included what should and should not be penalised, playacting, the difference between fair and unfair play, what is dangerous play and when to tell a player off and when to send him off.

FIFA's edict on sending players off for a tackle from behind was discussed at length and that became a hot debate.

It was impressed on the refs that must always try to be consistent.

Obviously the refs are playing a vital role in France and they are earning their money.

The money is great, the refs are obviously fit enough to do the job, but have they been performing?

Overall, we can't be critical of them but I believe they have let themselves down badly by not punishing players for "diving".

Time after time, players have been rolling around in agony after receiving the slightest of bumps from opponents.

There have been instances when there has been no contact at all.

I have watched most of the action from France and Blanco (Mexico) has been the only player I have seen booked for taking a dive.

The Portuguese referee who pulled out his yellow card is to be applauded.

If more of his colleagues had emulated him it would have gone a long way towards eliminating this cynical practice.

Apart from being tagged cheats, the culprits are, in effect, attempting to have an opponent sent from the field.

A far cry from FIFA's fair play edict.

Joe Russo
ABSW Serie A columnist

Third time "unlucky". This is now the third World Cup in a row that the penalty shoot-out has seen the Azzurri go home. In 1990 in Naples, Argentina defeated Italy on penalties after the game ended 1-1 in the semi-finals. Aldo Serena and Roberto Donadoni missed Italy's penalties in that game.

Then in 1994, in the final at Pasadena (Los Angeles), after playing a 0-0 draw with Brazil, they lost a World Cup, courtesy of Franco Baresi and Roberto Baggio who missed penalties in that shoot-out.

And so to the Stade de France, Saint-Denis 1998, and yet another penalty shoot out. Once against two Italian misses, Demetrio Albertini and Luigi Di Biagio, and once again Italy are packing their bags.

In a game that France dominated, it would have been a travesty of justice had Italy had progressed to the semi-finals. France were the better team on the day — there is undeniably no question about that!

Alex De! Piero was sadly out of form, as he has been throughout this World Cup. When Robbie Baggio finally replaced him in the second half, Italians wordwide breathed a sign of relief. In the limited time available to him, he did make a difference. Baggio is still Italy's best player in this position!

In short, the French knew the Italian game well but the reverse is also true. Italy knew them just as much! This "cross-over" of knowledge, may help explain the fairly dour 0-0 draw.

In his post-match analysis, how coach Maldini can say that Italy played as well as France, is almost beyond comprehension. He seemed to think that Italy played well, but the world will tell him that they didn't!

Maldini is a veteran coach, reluctant to change and possibly even a "dinosaur" of the past. He has had his go, but now is the time for the Italian Federation (FIGC) to bring in some new blood.

A new coach should be appointed, with a four year contract that expires after the 2002 World Cup. The very successful Juventus coach Marcello Lippi would be ideal. However, Giovanni Trapattoni (ex Juve, Inter and Bayern Munich and current Fiorentina) and Fabio Capello (ex AC Milan and Real Madrid) wouldn't let you down either.

As for Italy's adventure in France 98, it is the end of the road. Time to say "grazie e arrivederci" in 2002. Good luck to France in the semi-finals. You deserve to be there.

'Good Luck to France,' says Joe Russo.

Daryl Katz
ABSW contributing writer

The African challenge at France 98 ended last week with the elimination of Nigeria, the continent's sole representative in the knockout phase.

Denmark, inspired by the skill and guile of the Laudrup brothers, dispatched a lumbering Nigerian team lacking in conviction and commitment.

However, while a single second round qualifier from an original contingent of five appears unsatisfactory, the African teams have made a significant and memorable contribution to France 98.

We have seen the cavalier approach of the West Africans from Cameroon and Nigeria, the control and organisation of the North Africans as displayed by Morocco, and the skill and inventiveness of South Africa.

One need look no further than Okocha of Nigeria, Mboma of Cameroon and Hadji of Morocco to see the ability and aptitude inherent in the African game. The natural athleticism, pace and flair was once again in evidence.

This was epitomised by Cameroon, dominating both Italy and Chile despite having only ten men on the field. Nigeria were at their best against Spain, twice coming from behind to equalise and clinching victory with a high quality strike from Sunday Oliseh.

Cameroon and Morocco justifiably felt aggrieved at exiting the tournament due to decisions which, on another day, may just as easily have gone their way.

But the spectre of indiscipline has raised its head once again, casting doubts over the ability of an African nation to go all the way in the World Cup.

Kalla and Song both deserved the red cards which crippled a Cameroon campaign surely otherwise destined for the second round. Their physical approach, while effective in winning the ball, must be tempered if they are to scale the heights of which they are capable.

Nigeria also displayed an alarming lack of urgency and application in their second round match. Producing some fine touches while in possession, they were slow to respond to the speed of thought and movement displayed by the Danes.

After relaxing against Paraguay, Nigeria struggled to recapture the explosive form of their early matches. Despite their Olympic success, they were unable to find the reserves of mental strength required to recover from the blow of two early goals.

Poor goalkeeping was another negative hallmarkof the African campaign. Morocco were badly affected against Austria and Nigeria's Peter Rufai produced a nightmare performance against Denmark.

The tournament is the poorer for the early extinguishing of the African flame. They provided many highlights in the early rounds.

But it is imperative if African soccer is to continue progressing that they combine their flamboyant game with some of the more pragmatic elements of the classical European style.

Roy Hay
ABSW contributing writer

Once again Brazil has reached the semi-finals of the World Cup as the only representative of South America, while the other three participants are from Europe, and none have won the Cup before.

The first two quarter-finals were highly contrasting matches. Italy against France was a tight as a drum, with France having the better chances and doing much more to force the pace of the game, whereas the Brazil-Denmark epic was open, flowing and innovative soccer from beginning to end. Italy seemed set in a basically defensive mould from which it found it hard to break out, while France inspired by the returning Zidane and the imposing Desailly still could not find an outfield goalscorer when it mattered.

I doubt Zagallo will put Denilson on to replace him, but given that Cafu is at his best going forward and the semi-final opponents will be without the left wing-back Numan, also suspended, this could be an imaginative move.

Holland got out of its quarter-final with one of the goals of the tournament, a superb piece of technical skill by the sublime Dennis Bergkamp. The ability to bring the ball under control on the top of the foot after 90 minutes while running at top pace, then change direction inside a top class defender and finally beat the keeper with a quick shot with the outside of the foot leaves one in awe. No wonder he is the highest paid performer in the English Premier League! But should Holland have been in the position to score that goal? At the other end, moments before, Jaap Stam had tripped Ariel Ortega in the box. The referee seemed unsure of what to do, when Edwin van der Saar loomed over the tiny Ortega as he was getting up, receiving a head-butt on the chin which resulted in the red card for the Argentinian playmaker. Assuming the "Glasgow kiss" was deliberate, what was van der Saar doing by attempting to overawe or reprimand Ortega? It was provocative at least and out of order in the circumstances.

Then came the upset of the tournament and the result which will have relieved all the other contenders as Croatia beat Germany by the widest margin suffered by a German team since the Puskas and the Hungarians took them apart in a group match in 1954. A dire first half of irascible, bad-tempered soccer was transformed by the sending off of Woerns and the spectacular drive by Robert Jarni on the stroke of half-time.

SportOdds
Bet on Soccer just by picking up the phone.
☎ 132 946 ...that's 132 WIN!

1998 WORLD CUP

Brazil	Holland
2.40	4.50
France	Croatia
3.00	7.00

WORLD CUP
ANALYSIS & COMMENT

Dwyght Tuffnell
ABSW Melbourne correspondent

Brazil, Holland, France and Croatia. Next Monday morning our time, two of these four nations will slug it out for football's biggest prize. The Brazil - Holland semi is worthy of the final of the final itself pitting two countries who play attractive, flowing football against one another in a game that will produce goals.

It's a repeat of the 1994 quarter-final, the best game of that particular World Cup.

Holland have had a tough run but there were signs in their quarter-final clash with Argentina that they are starting to click.

And it's no coincidence that Dennis Bergkamp is getting his touch back after a long lay-off through injury.

His contribution to the victory to the win over Argentina was immeasureable, the brilliant last minute winner and that header that few other players in world football would have even thought of to set-up Patrick Kluivert.

Guus Hiddink will be praying that Marc Overmars will be fit in time for the game.

Plus, the injury to Bogarde, which has seen him have to return to Amsterdam, is another blow that he could have definitely done without.

Holland's defence has been something of a concern so far.

Frank de Boer has been good but Jaap Stam — currently the world's most expensive defender - has been caught out many times.

Their battle with Ronaldo and Bebeto could become a lopsided one with the Brazilians' pace, particularly Ronaldo, bound to be a problem for Stam and de Boer.

Brazil too, have shown that they can have goals scored against them.

Whatever the outcome of this game, it's bound to go down as one of the great World Cup contests.

Hosts France will be looking to make it to their first final, but have a tough test against Croatia.

France's form after the group stage has been nothing to rave about. They just snuck past Paraguay and needed penalties to overcome the Italians.

France were good in that game but were let down in the most important area - scoring goals.

For all their possession, the French created only a few decent opportunities, and they fell to midfielders Youri Djorkaeff and Christian Karembeu.

They missed Thierry Henry and will need him fit, Stephane Guivarc'h hardly had a touch playing up front against Italy.

Croatia, in their first World Cup, have absolutely nothing to lose, unlike their opponents Only their coach Miroslav Blazevic expected them to get this far, some of his players said they would be surprised if they made it to the quarter-finals.

But here they are in the semis with a realisitic chance of advancing further.

Davor Suker is the key player. His goalscoring prowess is well noted and his partnership with Goran Vlaovic looks better than the one he had with Mario Stanic.

Zinedine Zidane and Djorkaeff are the two players the Croats need to curb. Do this and there is no reason why they couldn't be playing off in the final at their first attempt.

Graham Cooke
ABSW Canberra correspondent

The reign of Sepp Blatter as president of FIFA is off to an inauspicious beginning if events during the World Cup competition are anything to go by. If Blatter, and the man he has hand-picked for his sporting director, Michel Platini, were deliberately setting out to wreck the tournament, they could not be doing a better job.

In very public comments, both men criticised refereeing standards. Blatter claimed the refs had "forgotten" the rules on tackling from behind and the goalkeeper holding on to the ball; Platini went even further, saying the referees who do not implement the rules will be "sent home as soon as possible".

I do not propose to enter into a debate over whether rules have been adequately enforced, put by blasting the officials in public in the middle of the tournament, Blatter and Platini have loaded additional pressures on men who are already carrying an horrendous burden.

The result, inevitably, has been wild swings in the referees' interpretation of the rules, and a total breakdown in consistency — the one thing everyone said they wanted to see most in the handling of matches.

After a fairly quiet start, we suddenly had Red Thursday with five dismissals in two matches; we had the English player, David Beckham, dismissed against Argentina for an incident which SBS's Johnny Warren correctly stated would leave the World Cup devoid of players if it was punished in the same way throughout the competition.

A great game was spoiled by that decision, which was essentially that of a referee trying desperately to read what is in the minds of Blatter and Platini.

The problem is the FIFA autocrats are trying to rob the man in the middle of the last remnants of what used to be called "referee's discretion".

Increasingly, they demand "if this happens, you do that" with total inflexibility.

Former World Cup referee Phillip Don made a telling comment when he said: "You cannot apply mandatory instructions if you are applying common sense. Mandatory means what it says".

So, if it is FIFA's intention to reduce referees to the level of robots, blindly applying the rules with no regard to nuance, atmosphere or interpretation, so be it.

But for heaven's sake leave the inquests until after the competition is over, or at least carry them on behind closed doors.

The referees deserve better than public castigation from powerful FIFA officials who ought to better know how to exercise their considerable powers. Blatter and Platini are destined to occupy prominent positions on the world stage. A crash course in diplomacy would be in order.

One final point. Is it not time we reconsidered the send-off rule in the light of its heavy use in the modern game?

When I began watching English league football back in the 1950s, I had sat through some 40 matches and was into my second season before I witnessed a dismissal.

Today they come at the rate of almost one every two games.

The send-off was designed as a severe and ultimate punishment, to be employed only after remonstrations and bookings failed to have their effect.

Its almost casual use these days suggests there should be an intermediate stage before teams are deprived permanently of one of their members and games ruined for spectators both in the ground and watching on television.

Maybe it's worth looking at the sin-bin, or allowing the replacement of players dismissed for, shall we say, two yellow card offences.

Let's hope there is more careful consideration of these issues and less of the public grandstanding which has been the hallmark of the fledgling Blatter administration.

John Economos
ABSW Staff Reporter

THE strict policing and heavy penalising of the tackle from behind during the current World Cup in France has been long, long overdue. The tackle from behind for years has been outlawed by FIFA but was rarely policed or enforced by referees.

The strict policing of this illegal tackle has done wonders to encourage 160 goals to have been scored to date in France '98.

Now that this dangerous tackle at long last is being instantly punished, a new 'crime' has popularised itself.

We are now seeing an ever-increasing use of 'shirt-pulling' or 'grabbing' which is very quickly reaching almost epidemic levels.

So much so that it has been a credit to the various textile manufacturers who have made the international playing strips for this World Cup.

The quality and strength of the fabrics used have been of such high standard that to date we have yet to see one single playing strip ripped to shreds from the enormous strain gripped on by desperate defenders.

WHO will win the16th, and certainly the most difficult World Cup, is every Soccer fan's desperate dilemma.

From the starting 32 teams, now only four remain.

By tomorrow morning, (Wednesday Australian time), Arsenal and Holland's goal-ace Dennis Bergkamp could very easily give the world a huge and shock clue after the the Dutch have played Brazil in the first semi final?

Mark Fowler
ABSW contributing writer

1998 became 1986 all over again for England, knocked out of the World Cup in controversial fashion by Argentina. Danish ref Neilson showed an inconsistency that left both sets of players baffled as he strolled around like refereeing an unimportant kick-about. It is expected he won't be holidaying in England for some time!

Despite this, memories of this game will last a long time.

Within these memories though, we must not forget some brilliant performances.

Those who heard Tony Adams 'singing' the national anthem will never forget it, but thankfully his efforts on the field were of a much higher class. Adams is easy to criticise but there has never been a player more proud to play for his country.

Paul Ince was another who couldn't have given more, and to come out with credit, given Argentina's movement off the bal, is praise indeed.

Michael Owen's third goal at international level was pure class. In claiming the goal he showed skill, strength and pace. To see all these attributes in one so young is remarkable.

The manner of defeat hurts, and Beckham must unfortunately shoulder a lot of the blame. Whatever contact he made with Simeone was minimal, but the referee was correct in sending him off.

The sight of Gabrielle Batistuta remonstrating with the referee to send Beckham off was sickening, and matched by Simeone doing the same trying to get David Seaman sent off for the penalty. Both players are better than that.

Batistuta contributed little else, and his replacement Crespo looked much more of a threat.

Batty will find sympathy on his return to England, but not so Beckham. Next season he will not only need to display his undoubted talent, but also a maturity he has been unable to do so far.

To let himself down is criminal enough, but England will not risk him until they can be sure he won't let them down again.

On a happier note, another penalty shoot-out, another last minute goal, some more Brazilian magic and one huge upset were the ingredients for a superb weekend.

Host nation France were deserved winners against a disappointing Italy, who tried to hit France on the break. That the game went to penalties only confirmed what many have thought about this French team, that they are too lightweight up front.

Against that, France have a defence that contains four differing players all on top of their craft; Thuram, Desailly, Blanc and Lizarazu.

Thuram in particular caused the Italians problems and also stopped Maldini surging forward. This meant Christian Vieri lacked support until the belated introduction of Roberto Baggio.

The biggest surprise came in Croatia beating Germany 3-0. They now play France in the semi-finals, and while Croatia again will be underdogs they have nothing to lose and much to gain. If France had Davor Suker instead of the Croatians they would be unbackable, but still the French defence should be too strong. Don't be surprised if we see another extended game.

The only bad thing about the Brazil and Holland semi-final is that it isn't the final. If both teams commit to attack then this will be the best game of the tournament. Brazil will know they will need to lift a gear while Holland will again look to a team of superstars to play together.

No predictions for this one, other than if you want to watch a game worthy of a final, this is it. After all, the winners of this game will face a slightly easier task in the final itself.

STUART JONES' STATS

The knockout stages of the World Cup. As a comparison in brackets are the group stage stats:

Goals

Total 34 in 12 games 2.8 goals average per game (2.6)

0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	90-120
8	5	5	5	3	7	1
24%	15%	15%	15%	9%	20%	2%
(12%)	(10%)	(16%)	(19%)	(17%)	(26%)	

Open Play	- 22	- 65% (61%)
Freekicks	- 6	- 17% (12%)
Penalties	- 4	- 12% (10%) 1 penalty missed from total of 18, 94% conversion rate
Corners	- 1	- 3% (14%)
Throw Ins	- 1	- 3% (2%)

Deflections, touches from opposition or own goals - 5 - 15% (23%)

Cards

Yellow Cards - 58 - average 2.4 per team per game (1.8)

Red Cards - 4 - average 0.3 per game (0.3)

	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	90-120	
YC	5		10	13	10	8	9	3
	9% (8)	17% (19)	22% (15)	17% (17)	14% (19)	16% (22)	5%	
RC				1	1	1	1	

Day 16,17 - 17 Yellow cards given out on both days.

Day 9 - 5 Red cards given out.

Fouls - 437 - average 1 foul every 2.5 minutes of play (2.7)

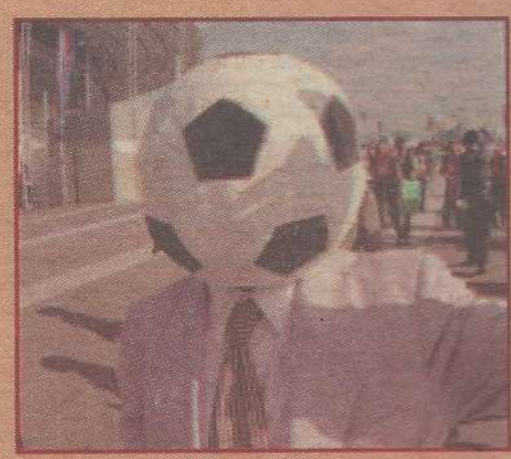
Corners - 133 - average 11 per game (10)

Offsides - 74 - average 6 per game (6)

Substitutes Used - 58 - average 2.4 substitutes per game (2.7)

Least Substitutes used - Holland (none) v Yugoslavia (who only used two)

It's a mad, mad, mad



mad (soccer) world